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An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation جوردان تليمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والراي،

Gulf war could spark Philippine uprising

MANILA (R) — Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos warned Friday the Philippines could face a combined right-wing army coup attempt and a communist-led uprising if war erupts in the Gulf. He said in a speech to business and labour leaders that communist hit squads had moved into Manila just before Christmas in anticipation of fresh army putsch against President Corazon Aquino. Aquino, who has survived six coup attempts since being swept to power in a popular revolt almost five years ago, has asked Congress for emergency powers for six months to cope with the potential impact of a war in the Gulf. Ramos said that according to captured documents, communist guerrillas were planning a campaign of assassinations and robberies and were also training underground hit squads. He said that if army rebels launched another coup attempt, the communists planned to "join in the fray to make the conflict bloodier." They also planned to bomb and loot supermarkets.

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U.S., Saudis to drop 🗽 proposed arms package

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WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and Saudi Arabia have agreed to drop a proposed \$7 billion arms package for the kingdom until after the Gulf crisis, the State Department announced Friday. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told Congress on Thursday the Bush Administration would not be proceeding with the sale. "We agreed that resolution of the Gulf crisis was our first priority and we need to further asses Saudi arms needs in the context of the post-crisis environment,' said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher. "Strong -defence forces are an important element of regional stability and the U.S. will continue to assist Saudi Arabia building such capabilities," he said.

Americans to stage peace marches

PARIS (R) — The Paris-based "Americans for Peace" group Friday called on Americans in Europe and the United States to march next Monday for a peaceful solution to the crisis in the Gulf. The group said in a statement it was calling for protest demonstrations on Jan. 7 in Paris, Washington, Geneva, London, Stockholm, Rome and Bonn to demand a peaceful settlement of the crisis "avoiding catastrophe for the U.S. and for mankind." In Geneva, the group set up last October will join 21 organisations including the World Council of Churches

Papandreou to go on trial in March

ATHENS (AP) - Former Premier Andreas Papandreou and three members of his 1981-89 socialist government will be tried for corruption on March 11, Supreme Court President Vasilios Kokkinos said Friday. Papandreou, who leads the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok), faces three criminal charges in connection with the \$210-million embezzlement of the privately-owned Bank of Crete in 1988. Former ministers Agamemnon Koutsogiorgas, Dimitris Tsovolas and George Petsos wil be tried with Papandreou on similar charges. Papandreou and Tsovolas are presently members of the 300member parliament.

Lebanese troops clash with Syrian unit

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese troops and a Syrian army intelli-gence unit fought with machineguns for 15 minutes on Friday in the section of Beirut where President Elias Hrawi has his headquarters, security ibled sources and witnesses said. No casualties were reported in the first such exchange since thousands of Lebanese army soldiers, backed by Syrian troops, took control of a militiafree Beirut on Dec. 3. The sources said the firefight took place in the Ramlet Al Baydah district where Hrawi is based and Damascus maintains the beadquarters of its 40,000 troops in Lebanon. It was not immediately known what trig-gered the battle, which was balted after high-level contacts.

USS Missouri helps

BAHRAIN (AP) — A Saudi Arabian tanker caught fire Friday while sailing through the Gulf and an American battleship rushed to help, U.S. navy and shipping sources re-ported. The 23,618-ton Saudi-. flagged Tabuk put out a distress call and reported fire in the gengine room as it sailed off the communicate of Aiman at the southern edge of the Gulf, near the Strait of Hormuz, said radio formation bureau spokesman Gean B. Atkinson, of the U.S. deship USS Missouri "responded to the distress call from the ship and is providing assist-

Aziz to meet Baker in Geneva Wednesday

King Hussein, Major welcome move towards American-Iraqi contacts

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq Friday accepted Washington's proposal for talks next week on the Gulf crisis, agreeing to meet just six days before a U.N. deadline for Baghdad to leave Kuwait or

face possible attack.
U.S. President George Bush's administration called the agreement "an encouraging sign.'

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz said he will travel to Geneva on Wednesday to meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. But Aziz also said he will insist upon linking any Iraqi pullout to the Palestinian situation — a stance Washington has repeatedly rejected.

The planned Baker-Aziz meeting is to be the first highlevel, direct talks between the two countries since the Gulf crisis began five months ago. Bush made the proposal

Thursday after he failed to arrange talks in Baghdad between Baker and President Saddam Hussein. Iraqi Television and the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted

Aziz as saying Iraq will use the talks to stress its commitment to the Palestinian people's rights to a homeland and "the question of granting the

(Agencies) — Israel, alarmed by

the growing power of the Palesti-

war against Palestinians in the

occupied Gaza Strip, sources

Israeli forces have killed eight

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip

since Saturday, five of them

activists, attempting to flee rather

Gaza residents say security

forces — many working under-

cover - have been making extra

efforts to track down suspected

activists, penetrating deep into

refugee camps in the hunt for

Witnesses to operations in

Gaza and the West Bank say the

Israelis shoot to kill. The army

denies the charge but a high

proporation of the dead are shot

in the head and upper torso,

Since Israeli police shot dead

at least 20 Palestinians in Jeru-

salem last October, fanning

anew the flames of revolt, Israel

Palestinian doctors say.

than attack the Israelis.

said Friday.

Palestinians.

Palestinians their rights and self-determination and independence, and to have Jerusalem as the capital of the state of Palestine.

Iraq has linked a pullout of Israeli forces from the Israelioccupied West Bank and Gaza Strip with any Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Bush said Thursday that his proposal for talks meant, "no negotiations, no compromises. no attempt at face-saving and no rewards" for aggression. He gave Baghdad until Saturday to respond.

Aziz said Friday, the American administration "as usual, had accompanied its new proposal to meet in Switzerland with a series of arrogant statements, a course which demonstrates its ill-intentions.

"Iraq has always affirmed, and does so now, its firm stand that it is not afraid of pressure and does not determine its position under threat," he

Aziz said Baghdad's call for a regional settlement had been conveyed to Washington along with its agreement to attend the Jan. 3 meeting.

His Majesty King Hussein and British Prime Minister John Major Thursday welcomed Bush's proposal for a

against Palestinian revolt

operations were directed mainly

nian uprising, has stepped up its at leading activists on the Israeli police inspector Moshe Caspi.

wanted list but Palestinians say

include any masked youth the

Israeli military sources said

procedures and attributed the Strip.

there was no change in army

rise in casualties to stepped up

activity by Palestinians since the

ing of thousands of Arab labour-

violence since the Oct. 8 killings,

have increased people's frustra-

tions resulting in more demon-

woman passenger, and then

drove into a second vehicle,

De Marco calls for peace

conference on Mideast

After the second collision, the

A Palestinian bus driver was

strations and protests.

police said.

has stepped up its fight against bus driver got out of the vehicle,

Palestinians say Israel's sack-

At the start of the uprising waved a metal bar before he was

the hunt has widened of late to out 8:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) over

ers from jobs in Israel in the mians to see their relatives held

wake of increased Israeli-Arab at Ashkelon prison in Israel, and

shot to death by soldiers Friday swerved into the left lane, hitting

after he swerved his bus into an a Renault with army license

army officer's car, killing a plates. In the car were an army

Israel steps up its war

Israelis can find.

Oct. 8 killings.

meeting between top U.S. and Iraqi officials in Switzerland next week.

"We welcome very much indeed the initiative made by President Bush this morning. We very much hope Mr. Baker will go to Switzerland and that Aziz will go to Switzerland to meet him," Major said.

The prime minister spoke outside his 10 Downing Street residence after lunching with King Hussein who is on a two-day visit.

King Hussein said: "I would like to echo your feelings in welcoming the positive news we have heard today. This is a good step and a very important step and I hope it will bring a peaceful resolution to the cri-

In Washington, Bush said his proposal of a meeting between Baker and Aziz was "one last attempt to go the extra mile for peace."

The United Nations has set a Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

The two-hour lunch was King Hussein's first meeting with Major, who assumed office in November. Major described the meeting as "useful and friendly."

(Continued on page 4)

shot to death by soldiers, said

The collisions occurred at ab-

a distance of about 1.5

kilometres just north of the Erez

army checkpoint that divides

Israel from the occupied Gaza

divers as Mohammad Samir

liya refugee camp.

Katanani, 30, from Gaza's Jaba-

Katanani had taken Palesti-

was driving an empty bus back to

Gaza when he hit the Israel

Erez checkpoint when he

officer and his family, Caspi said

(Continued on page 5)

The collision killed a woman

on Israel army radio.

He was two kilometres from

vehicles, Arab reports said.

Palestinians identified the bus

France unveils Gulf plan; EC invites Aziz for talks conference on the Middle East,

France Friday proposed a broad peace plan that calls for Iraq to pull out of Kuwait, with a promise it would not be attacked and a pledge to open international discussion on other Middle East

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas also urged his European Community (EC) colleagues to hold a meeting on the Gulf crisis in Luxembourg

as soon as possible. At a special meeting, Dumas told his EC colleagues that in view of the stalemate in the Gulf "Europe could not remain with its arms folded," said a French source, who asked not

to be named. Dumas did not insist on an Iraqi withdrawal before the Jan. 15 deadline, simply an

announcement of intent. The anti-Iraq alliance would then guarantee not to attack

Iraq and the scene would be set

the Gulf crisis. The proposed meeting, decided upon at a special session of EC foreign ministers, would take place one day after Aziz has met with U.S. Secretary of

State James Baker in Geneva. "They have agreed on the 10th (of January) in Luxembourg," said a British source the EC ministerial session. 'said a British source of

Dumas told his EC counter-

The EC agreed later Friday

to ask Iraqi Foreign Minister

Tarea Aziz to come to Luxem-

bourg next Thursday to discuss

In Paris, French President Francois Mitterrand said Friday that the U.N. Security Council should have another meeting on the Gulf crisis before Jan. 15 if Iraq ignores the deadline to quit Kuwait and war becomes possi-

"I think it would be a good

officials on the subject.

The sources said that under

the plan, all 71 missions operat-

ing in Baghdad would move to

Ramadi, a small city on the

Ramadi is 105 kilometre

from the centre of Baghdad. It

is adjacent to the largest holiday

complexes in the Middle East

including a four-star, 600-bed

The resort is equipped with three restaurants and bars, in-

door and outdoor swimming

pools, a sailing club, four tennis

courts, one volleyball court, a

mini golf course and a night

banks of Euphrates River.

before the start of what would be a war we should bring together all the elements of the moment," Mitterrand said in

answer to a question. He said an eve-of-deadline meeting was "not obligatory" but in his opinion it would be desirable instead of relying on 'the accumulation of facts" that had built up since the Security Council last discussed the crisis.

Mitterrand said that if Iraq announced its intention to quit Kuwait before the deadline it would have to be more than a 'vague' promise.

Only a clear undertaking for a "total, programmed and verified withdrawal" would be acceptable, he said.

"Every day that passes reduces (Iraq's) credibility," Mitterrand added at an informal meeting with journalists after a new year ceremony at the

called on EC ministers to wel-come U.S. President George Bush's offer of direct Geneva talks between Baker and Aziz.

"There is no contradiction, nor interference" between Dumas' proposed EC-Iraq talks and the negotiations proposed by Bush next week, said a French official.

Aziz would either meet Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos, whose country holds the EC's rotating presidency, or the foreign ministers of Italy, Luxembourg and the Nether-

The French peace plan calls for the talks to be held as soon

The French peace plan calls for Iraq to leave Kuwait, the multinational forces arrayed in the Gulf to then pledge not to

(Continued on page 5)

embassies to move out ble relocation of our missions." BAGHDAD (AP) — The Iraqi government has advised foreign diplomatic missions to prepare He confirmed that Indian Ambassador Kamal Bakshi was approached by Foreign Ministry

Baghdad said to advise

for moving out of the capital to temporary facilities 105 kilometres to the west, diplomatic sources said Friday.

The sources said the proposed relocation was conveyed to heads of diplomatic missions on Thursday, but that no date was

Meanwhile, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) denied reports that government institutions also would be moved out of the capital before the mid-January deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

"These reports are fabricated and ridiculous... Baghdad is the capital of steadfastness and victory and will remain so, protected by its men under the leadership of President Saddam Hussein," INA said in a commentary.

The diplomatic sources, who insisted on not being identified, said they were aware of reports that ministries and public departments might be relocated, but that they could not confirm

advised only about a plan to relocate foreign missions.

One of the sources, an Indian

advised to prepare for a possi-

They said they had been

diplomat, said: "It is not an

order, but we have been

During the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, diplomats often sent their families to Habbaniya to escape missile attack on Bagh-

Ramadi also is connected to an 800-kilometre road network

that leads to the Jordanian border posts of Rutba and Mafraq. The Indian diplomat said the

heads of foreign missions plan to meet Jan. 10 or Jan. 11 to discuss the proposal.

"We have asked the government to let us know what communication facilities we will have there," he said.

He said he would brief Prince

Saud on Thursday's summit

talks between the leaders of

Egypt, Syria, Libya and Sudan

in the Libyan coastal town of

early Friday the talks were "an

attempt to find a peaceful solu-

tion to the Gulf crisis to save us

Mubarak said on his return

Pressure grows for ceasefire in Somalia NAIROBI (Agencies) - Inter- Community have issued similar

national pressure grew on Friday for a truce between Somali rebels and forces loyal to Presi- commander aged about 70 who dent Mohammad Siad Barre took power in a 1969 coup, but fighting went on unabated repeated an impassioned call in the capital, Mogadishu.

"There is not much sign of a ceasefire getting under way." United Somali Congress (USC) said a Western diplomat in Nairobi in contact with his embassy in Mogadishu.

"The situation appears much as it has done over the past few days — the fighting continues and it's impossible to say who's

on top." Western governments have evacuate their citizens from the battle-torn Somali capital. On Thursday the United States

joined the calls for a ceasefire. The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) earlier appealed for an immediate truce and

peace talks. President Daniel Arap Moi of neighbouring Kenya, the Italian government and the European "As soon as there is a cease-fire we will go ahead with the evacuation," he said.

Siad Barre, a former army

Thursday for a ceasefire. An official of the insurgent told the Associated Press in

Rome that the rebels would allow a ceasefire to evacuate foreigners from Mogadishu. But Abdul Rahim Mohammad, the group's secretary for social affairs, said the rebels

would not negotiate with Siad Barre and were preparing for a been trying to work out how to heavy assault on his remaining strongholds. In Rome, where Italian offi-

cials were trying to mount a major rescue operation, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the effort had been stymied by the rebels' previous refusal to halt fighting.

Karami says freeing hostages is priority BEIRUT (R) - Prime Minister the leaders of the country's

Omar Karami said Friday that freeing the 12 Westerners held hostage in Lebanon was a top priority of his newly formed national unity government. He also said in an interview

with Reuters that Lebanon was counting on Arab countries and the international community to help heal the wounds of 15 years of civil war that killed 150,000 people. Six Americans, three Britons,

two Germans and an Italian are held captive in Lebanon by extremists. Four of them have been hostages for more than five years and all have been prisoners for at least 19 months. "No man on Lebanese soil should be beld captive unjust-

ly... the top duty of the Lebanese government is to work for the release of the hostages from a humanitarian aspect," said Karami.

Karami, a 55-year-old lawyer from the northern port of Tripoli, formed a 30-member unity cabinet on Dec. 24 that includes

seven main militias.

The formation of a national reconciliation government was stipulated in an Arab-brokered peace pact reached in Taif, Saudi Arabia, in October 1989 and ratified by Lebanon's par-

"We now have a last chance for salvation which must be used in the current international and regional conjuncture," he

He said Arab states and the international backers of the Taif accord would have to assist his government in ensuring that the militias which had split the country into armed camps were disarmed and disbanded by

"This new government strives for achieving peace in Lebanon. To achieve this national goal several basic steps should be taken, starting with disbanding the militias, gathering arms and then beginning the march of

(Continued on page 4)

Security Council deplores Israeli violence the disasters of war and destructhe ministers have met three OCCUPIED JERUSALEM violence in Gaza, interpreted the a major stone-throwing demontimes. The first meeting was in Abdul Meguid said the Mis-(Agencies) — U.N. General result as balanced and ex Assembly President Guido de handed towards all parties. Jeddah, the second in Damasresult as balanced and even- stration broke out. rata talks were "important, use-Dozens of men and women cus and the third in Cairo. "These meetings have proved ful and required at this stage." The statement expresses deep from the camp were seen throw-In Damascus officials said Sy-

Marco called Friday for an inter-

At the U.N., for the fourth time since the Gulf crisis began, the United States Friday supported a Security Council action criticising Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the occupied terri-

All 15 members of the council. after three days of negotiations, approved a statement deploring the growing violence in the Gaza Strip and drawing attention to actions by Israeli forces against Palestinians

The statement maintained the unity displayed by the council since it fired off a volley of

resolutions against Iraq for its. August 2 invasion of Kuwait. The United States, which successfully inserted into the statement a condemnation of all

national peace conference on the concern about the violence Middle East, saying "the situa-tion is becoming every day more serious, more sensitive." "especially actions by Israeli security forces against Palesti-nians" which led to scores of civilian casualties.

plore those actions, particularly the shooting of civilians." It also asks Israel to comply

fully with the provisions of the 1949 Geneva convention, an international treaty on the protection of civilians in wartime, and says this convention applies to "all the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem."

tional conference after meeting in the occupied West Bank with the Palestinian mayors of Bethlehem and nearby Beit Sahur and Beit Jala. De Marco's plans to visit the

Dheishe refugee camp outside Bethlehem were cancelled when

camp and began searching for

towers overlooking the camp. The incident occured while de Marco was visiting a U.N. clinic at the camp. It was not clear if he

Before de Marco's visit, the Israeli army declared both camps "closed military areas." meaning reporters were blocked from covering his tour of the

(Continued on page 5)

Syrian ministers meet tionally.

Egyptian, Saudi and

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt's Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid flew to the Saudi capital of Riyadh Friday for a meeting with his Syrian and Saudi coun-

Abdul Meguid will meet with

Saudi Arabia's Prince Saud Al Faisal and Syria's Farouq Al Sharaa to discuss recent developments in the Gulf crisis. Since Iraq invaded on Aug. 2,

effective and important from the point of view of information exchange and coordination between the three countries especially on the Gulf crisis," Abdul Meguid told reporters before

departing.
Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia have troops participating in the U.S.-led multinational force marshalled in the Gulf region. Abdul Meguid said his coun-

try welcomes dialogue between Iraq and the United States be; fore Jan. 15, the date by which the United Nations says force may be used against Iraq if it has not withdrawn from

Abdul Meguid, who was accompanied by President Hosni Mubarak's top political adviser Osama Al Baz, described the Riyadh meeting as "conducive to Arab national interests and a boost to Arab causes internarian President Hafez Al Assad

returned from Libya after a separate meeting with Mubarak which lasted more than two They had three hours of talks in Misrata with Sudan's military ruler Omar Hassan Al Bashir

and Libyan revolutionary lead-Libya had said the aim of the summit was "to find a peaceful Arab solution to the crisis of

The official Libyan news agency JANA quoted Qadhafi as saying that if war broke out in the Gulf, Egypt and Libya should be on the same side.

"We will do our best to spare the world a disaster. If we fail, it will not be up to us, but up to Iraq." he added. Iraq." he added.
"If Iraq backed down at the

(Continued on page 5)

American Citizens In Jordan

A new travel advisory has been issued by the U.S. Department of State.

For further Information. Please call 604223 or 604214. Ext. 100

اعلان الى جميع الرعايا الاميركيين في الاردن

اصدرت وزارة الشارهية الاميركية بيلنا جديدا حول سقر المواطنان الاميركيين الموجودين في الارين. المرجودين في الاربن. المرجودين في المعلومات الرجاء الاتصال بهاتف ٢٠٤٢٢٢ أو عاد ١٠٠ أو عاد ١٠٠ أو ع

Saudi tanker ablaze

It says council members "de-

De Marco's call for an interna-

ing stones, empty cans and bottles over the camp's eight metre fence and onto the adjacent Soldiers closed the road for half an hour to clean up debris, then imposed a curfew on the

participants. Earlier, Palestinians in the Jalazoun refugee camp north of Jerusalem hurled stones and bottles at soldiers in three watch-

By Laurence McQuillan

WASHINGTON — President George Bush and top congressional leaders are embroiled in a dispute over the power to send U.S. troops into a war in the Gulf — and when it should be done.

The battle over U.S. constitutional authority, brewing since Bush sent troops to the Gulf after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. is heating up as the Jan. 15 U.N. deadline for Iraqi withdrawal

Bush met Thursday with 27 lawmakers in a private session aimed at defusing the tensions but the meeting broke up with the two sides no closer than before.

'It is our view that the constitution requries the president to seek the prior approval of congress for offensive military action in the Persian Gulf now, influential Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell said following the session with the Republican president.

Mitchell argued that sending American combat forces against Iraqi troops clearly be an act of war, and under the constitution only the Congress can declare

"The president holds a country view," Mitchell said. "I don't believe we've persuaded him of our view and I know he did not persuade us of his view."

lin Fitzwater said Bush refused to promise he would seek conressional approval before

"We will continue to consult with the Congress and we under-stand the constitutional responsibilities of the Congress and the president." Fitzwater said.

With the Jan. 15 mandate for Iraq's withdrawal rapidly approaching, Congress and the administration also are sharply divided over when force should be used to oust Iraq if it refuses to quit Kuwait.

Mitchell said there was disagreement over "whether the resort to force should be early, or whether the resort to force should be a truly last resort, only after all other means have been exhausted.

White House officials have said Bush favours military action soon after the U.N. deadline would benefit Iraq. Some members of Congress say sanctions five times. should first be given a year to 18 months to work.

'We want to be supportive of the president," said Mitchell. "We want to enhance, not detract from his credibility, but it does us no good to sacrifice our constitutional principles to said the Massachusetts Demoachieve those objectives."

The U.S. constitution gives Congress the authority to declare war but also sets the stage for a legal conflict by making the be dead because of him.

the armed forces.

In 1973 Congress passed the war powers resolution to limit foreign combat by U.S. troops. But the law has been virtually ignored through a series of con-flicts.

It was enacted over then-President Richard Nixon's veto in reaction to U.S. involvement Vietnam -- an undeclared war that escalated and cost more than 58,000 American lives.

It is supposed to restrict a president's power to make war without a formal declaration. It also gives Congress a decisive say on when any troops a president does commit to combat must come home.

Congress has not declared war since World War II and then only after Japan attacked Pearl Harbour in December 1941.

White House officials armue that presidents have committed because he believes delays troops to combat 211 rimes, but only sought declarations of war

"Perhaps the president can scrounge up a scholar or two to defend his indefensible position," said Senator Edward Kennedy on the floor of the Senate.

"The overwhelming weight of the evidence is against him." crat. "And for good reason, because the president is wrong - dead wrong - and thousands and American soliders may soon

Congress' formal approval.

But Senate majority leader George Mitchell, eager not to undermine Bush's new diplomatic initiative, managed to cut off debate before it got

In the corridors of the House, members told reporters that apprehension over war dominated their meetings

mott, said more than 1,000 Seattle people attended his community meetings during the holiday break and "I don't find anyone who wants to go

"Sunday morning, I go into a supermarket for a newspaper and I run into the mother whose son is headed over there." Richard Durbin told a reporter. "She was breaking down in tears right there in a grocery aisle. This is the toughest decision we can face

Sangmeister said "the Vietnam syndrome" kept arising. He said people dread a long, s, "Can we do it in five days?"

Ravenel, who represents the old navy port town of Charles-ton, South Carolina, said his voters think a congressional debate would be unproductive. The country has used military force in more than 250 instances, he said, but declared war only four or five

Chet Edwards, a freshman congressman from Texas said: "People are overwhelmingly committed to seeing that Iraq's aggression is reversed. "But there are a lot of 20-year-old wives and husbands who would be widows in several months if we go to war."

Americans in no mood

WASHINGTON (AP) Members of the newly con-vened 102nd U.S. Congress say the people back home are vexed, frustrated and apprehensive about the pros-pect of going to war in the

"There's a general fear that the Vietnam syndrome is setting in - can't win, can't get out," said Representative George Sangmeister, as hawks and doves alike reported Thursday they returned to the capital from a country per-Kuwait. plexed.

The public is unwilling to tolerate Iraq's seizure of Kuwait, and does not want to undercut President George Bush's diplomacy — but it is in no mood to go to war, and is full of questions, they said.

to go to

war in Gulf

"They keep asking me, Will there be war?" said Rep. Hamilton Fish, "what is going to happen?"

This opening day of Congress after a brief winter recess, was sobered by the knowledge that this Congress may be called upon to authorise and finance — a war against Iraq that military leaders say could be brutal.

In the Senate, two liberal Democrats - Tom Harkin of Iowa and Brock Adams of Washington - tried to initiate a debate over whether a president can make war without

The possibility of war is "being talked about in coffee shops, in the workplace, and in the homes," said Harkin. "Now is the time and here is the place to debate the constitutional prerogatives of the president of the United States.'

started.

with constituents.

Representative Jim McDer-

in public life."

drawn-out, indecisive war. The question they ask, he said,

But Representative Arthur

U.N. chief offers trip to Baghdad

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar warned Thursday of war fever in the Gulf crisis and offered to go to Baghdad if it would help avert a military

"I will go to Baghdad if they want me to be in touch with them," he said. "My feeling is that in the next 12 days we have all to be extremely active in order that military action does

Perez de Cuellar, in informal talks with reporters, also raised the possibility of a Security Council meeting on the Gulf to discuss measures short of war before the Jan. 15 U.N. deadline for Iraq to withdraw from

But in the face of objections from the United States and the Soviet Union, he spoke with reporters again later on Thursday and distanced himself from earlier comments on a possible council meeting, saying there had been a "tremendous misunderstanding.

Soviet Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, speaking earlier, dismissed the idea of a new council ques Poos, may get a mandate

WASHINGTON (Agencies) -

The United States says Iraq is

deploying thousands more

troops along its border with

Saudi Arabia, extending a west-

that will nullify the resolution EC meeting Friday. that has been adopted inviting Saddam Hussein to vacate Kuwait by the 15th of January."

Perez de Cuellar, who has believed there would be war on

this kind of psychosis of war on the 15th of January," he said. The U.N. chief also appeared to be laying the groundwork for his own role in solving the crisis

but said he did not want to

Iraq, the United States and its possibilities to a avoid a military

U.S. says Iraqis extending

defences west of Kuwait

he said.

been very uneasy about the use of force, said many mistakenly Jan. 15, although military action was just one option.

"I think it is wrong to create

He said he hoped to see Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari Friday 'to explore all

Military Industrialisation Minis-

ter Hussein Kamel Hassan to

President Saddam saying "a new

and advanced airborne warning

radar was successfully tested on

Soviet-made Ilyushin aircraft

into an airborne radar centre

capable of detecting low-flying

the late Defence Minister

General Adnan Khairallah who

was killed in a helicopter crash.

The message said the new

aircraft was "more advanced

than Adnan 1 in design, per-

gave no further details, but

added; "Iraq has become one of

the three countries in the world

"let the enemies of the nation

derive a lesson. They will carse

their stambling fate if they dare

the project was "the unsleeping

Adnan 2 were "in the design of

the fuselage, the revolving dish

The television announcer said

He said the modifications in

Iraq has nearly 700 combat

aircraft but is out-gunned by the

1,300 U.S. air force and marine

planes arrayed against it. The

Iragis have some Soviet-made

long-range fighter-bombers and

about 30 MiG-29 interceptors

which are considered a match for

The minister's message said:

formance and construction.'

to fulfill this achievement."

to commit an aggression.

eye that guards our sky."

and the radar itself."

It was named Adnan 1, after

enemy jets.

conflagration." On Thursday, he met the permanent representative of Luxembourg, Jean Feyder, Luxembourg's foreign minister, Jac-

Perez de Cuellar welcomed Washington's latest offer to Iraq for talks on Jan 7, 8 or 9 saying he was "persuaded by the initiative of the Americans and their allies that everyone wants to avoid a military conflagration.

September but the session was unproductive.

Austria heads panel

Austria was selected on Thursday to replace Finland as interfere or sow confusion in any chairman of the Security Counof the planned talks between cil's committee supervising economic sauctions imposed against Iraq last Aug. 6. Finland, one of the 10 non-

permanent members on the 15member council, has completed its two-year term.

Austrian Ambassador Peter Hohenfellner will be the new chairman of the committee to. replace Marjatta Rasi, Finland's deputy permanent U.N. repre- five powers.

meeting. "My personal opinion from the European Community is that we shouldn't do anything to open talks with Iraq after an integration."

an Ambassador Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan was selected to replace Malaysia as chairman of the council's committee monitoring an arms

embargo against South Africa. The Gulf Sanctions Commit-The Secretary-General last tee reviews applications for met Iraqi Foreign Minister sending goods to Iraq and com-Tareq Aziz in Jordan early in plaints from nations suffering under the economic embargo

imposed by the council. To date, the committee has allowed only medical supplies to be sent to Baghdad and recognised that a host of nations are in economic need as a result of the

embargo and rising oil prices. The Security Council has five permanent members, the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China. Its other 10 members rotate on a two-year basis with five leaving the Coun-

cil each year. In 1991, the 15-member body comprises Austria, Belgium, Cuba, Ivory Coast, Ecuador, India, Romania, Yemen, Zaire and Zimbabwe in addition to the

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Belgians want talks to solve Gulf crisis

BRUSSELS (R) — The vast majority of Belgians favour talks rather than war with Iraq to solve the Gulf crisis, although their government has ordered warplanes to Turkey, according to an opinion poll published Thursday. The poll of 500 people, published in the daily Le Soir, said 87 per cent thought Western countries should negotiate with Iraq to avoid war. Only 36 per cent thought force should be used to eject Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Almost half thought Western countries should make some concessions to Iraq if it meant avoiding war. Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said Wednesday his country would not take an active role in any Gulf conflict. Two-thirds of those questioned in the poll backed this view.

Malaysians told to leave Saudi hot spots

use of military force against Iraq.

Egyptair to continue flights to Guif

CAIRO (R) — Egyptair, Egypt's national carrier, will not suspend flights to the Gulf region despite the threat of war, its

erupt in the Gulf, Labour Department officials said Friday. They said about 500 to 600 were leaving each day. The Philippine government has rejected suggestions from congressmen that it should stop more workers leaving to join the half a million Filipinos already in the Middle East - 391,000 of them in Saudi Arabia. Labour Secretary Rubens Torres told legislators Thursday that Saudi Arabia badly needed overseas workers because it had sent home workers from Iraq, Jordan and Yemen. "If we stop sending workers now that Sandi Arabia needs workers, then we might have difficulties in sending Filipino workers to Saudi Arabia later on," Torres said. The Philippine economy, in poor shape even before it was hit by the sharp rise in world oil prices after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait last August, desperately needs the foreign exchange sent home by overseas workers. Torres said 20,000 Filipino workers were in Oman, 15,000 in Bahrain, 15,000 in Qatar and 90,000 in the United Arab Emirates. Around 90,000 of those in Saudi Arabia were in the eastern part of the kingdom.

... Aqaba (RJ) Dhahran (RJ)

New Delhi (R.F

. Karachi. Dubai (R.)

Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RI) Montreal, New York (RI)

Lebanon's unification hopes falter in Israeli-controlled south By Eileen Alt Powell SLA's artillery units. "It will not trust them. I will trust Israei for

The Associated Press

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon -The Lebanese government's effort to reestablish its authority and end 15 years of sectarian strife faces stubborn resistance in this Christian-dominated enclave along the Israeli border.

The South Lebanon Army (SLA), the militia financed and trained by Israel to control the area, is deeply suspicious of the role Syria is playing in the pacification effort. And it charges that Muslim

fighters ordered out of Beirut under the Syrian-backed peace plan are increasingly targetting SLA posts in the south. "It is a Syrian-directed government," complains Antoine Lahad, a former Lebanese army deputy chief of staff who com-

mands the SLA, "If later on it's proven that this government acts freely and on a Lebanese basis. there might be contacts between Lahad's stand is an indication of the difficulties Syrian-

supported Lebanese President Elias Hrawi faces in trying to reunite fractured Lebanon, which until World War I was part of Syria. Hrawi is struggling to implement an Arab League-brokered peace accord that only became possible after an 11-month

mutiny by rebel General Michel Aoun was crushed in October. The divided city was unified a month ago. Hrawi has created a "greater Beirut" free of militias and is seeking to extend his authority to the rest of the country. However, several right-wing

The SLA, from its headquarters on a rocky hilltop here, operates in Israel's so-called "security zone" in South Leba-

Christian and Muslim leaders

have rejected his assertion of

The 1,100-square-kilometre strip was carved out to protect Israel's northern border from the infiltration when the Jewish state withdrew the bulk of its troops in 1985 after a three-year occupation.

The zone is home to about 220,000 Lebanese, more than half of them Shi'ite Muslims. Christians, who feel themselves beleaguered minority, make up the bulk of the 2,700 fighters in the SLA.

A sign in Hebrew at the headquarters entrance carries their motto: "Through courage and brainpower, the small can overcome the large."

NEWS ANALYSIS

his name only as Shraga.

Israel also spends \$5.5 million year supporting an SLA-run government, complete with schools, hospitals and utilities. Israel says it will not abandon the area without "security" guarantees but insists it has no ambition to annex any of the

Shraga led Western reporters on a brief tour of SLA posts this week, including an artillery battery on a ridge near the ruined Beaufort Crusader castle that dominates the south.

Late last month, the battery turned its French- and Russianmade guns on nearby Muslim fundamentalist Hizbollah bases to retaliate for firing in Mar-

The militiamen's "shoes, uniforms and equipment to the last tank and artillery shell are provided by Israel," according to an Israeli liaison officer, who gave

iayoun. "The present situation is that

the Lebanon army is a puppet of

the Syrian army," said Abu

a protective umbrella.

Neither Shraga nor the SLA officers would say how many Israeli troops operate in the zone, though up to 1,000 are believed assigned to the area. Lahad insists that both

ern part of Israel depends, to a

Muslim militias out of the capital and into areas adjacent to the 'security zone.'

> which means there is more pressure on our area," Lahad said. about 10.000 Palestinian and

1,000 to 1,500 Hizbollah fighters in South Lebanon who could pose a threat to Israel. Lahad, 61, and a Maronite Christian from Lebanon's central Shouf mountains, barely survived an assassination attempt two years ago. He still suffers

damage that causes him to gulp air as he speaks. Lahad admits the SLA could not operate without the Israelis, whom he sees as a balance to Syrian forces in eastern Lebanon and a buffer against the possibil-

in Lebanon. Bshara, commander of the

Lebanese and Israelis benefit from the relationship. "The peace and security of the north-

great extent, on peace and security in the south of Lebanon," he That security, he adds, has been threatened with the Lebanese government's "greater Beirut" plan, which has forced

"This is to be added to the fact that the number of Palestinians in the south is increasing also. He estimated that there were

from its consequences - a nearly immobile right arm and lung

ity of Syrian political dominance

"In fact, 80 per cent of Leba-non is already under effective Syrian domination," Lahad said. There remains this part of Lebanon where we are, and this we cannot in any way allow included in their zone of hegemony."

ern front to block any U.S. Dec. 15, 1990." The message said the aircraft flanking move around heavily was even more sophisticated fortified Iraqi forces inside than one built by Iraq in 1989. In July 1989, Baghdad Kuwait. Defence Department spokesannounced that it had converted

man Pete Williams said Thursday that Iraq had added about 20,000 troops to its force in and around Kuwait - mostly on the front west of Kuwait. Extra Iraqi artillery pieces and armoured personnel carriers also have been deployed in the western area over the past week or so, he

In a "last attempt" at peace in the Gulf, President George Bush offered Thursday to send Secretarv of States James Baker to Geneva for talks with the Iraqi foreign minister, Tareq Aziz, early next week. Iraq said it was

studying the offer. U.S. Military officials have declined to say how many Iraqi troops are on the defensive front west of Kuwait. Williams said most of the 520,000 Iraqis deployed in defence of Kuwait are

inside its borders. Army officers have said one option if Bush orders an offensive campaign to oust Iraq from Kuwait would be a flanking move by U.S. armoured forces to the west of the main Iraqi defences. Iraq has used the five months since its invasion Aug. 2 to fortify its defensive positions in Kuwait with earthen barriers. anti-tank ditches, land mines

and wire barricades. Williams also announced Thursday that an additional 10,000 American troops had arrived in the Gulf area, including elements of the famed "Big Red One" 1st Infantry Division from

Fort Riley, Kansas.
The U.S. force in the region now stands at 335,000 and is expected to reach about 430,000 by month's end. The Pentagon said 245,000 troops from allied nations are in the area.

Williams said the Iragis have deployed 200 more armoured personnel carriers and infantry fighting vehicles, for a total of 2,700, and an additional 300 artillery pieces, for a total of 3,000. He gave no comparable figures for U.S. forces.

Iraq has said that it has developed a new airborne radar plane to detect enemy jets.

Baghdad television read a message from Industry and

661101

the U.S. F-16s. But the way they match up against U.S. pilots is another matter. During the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, Iraqi pilots rarely fought aerial combat or dog-

fights against an Iranian air force chronically short of spare parts. Iraqi pilots supported their ground troops with bombing and strafing runs, but they never faced the high-tech fire power and sophistication shown by the U.S. pilots arrayed against them

Iraq maintains a force of 510,000 troops, 4,000 tanks, 2,500 armoured pesonnel carriers and 2,700 artillery pieces in the Kuwaiti theatre of operations. About one-fourth of the units are elite Republican Guards, which are the besttrained and best-equipped in Iraq's army.

KUALA LUMPUR (R) - Malaysia has advised its 1,000 citizens in Saudi Arabia to move out of areas bordering Iraq and Kuwait. We have been advising Malaysians to leave the areas and some of them have done so on their own," Malaysia's Ambassador to, Saudi Arabia Adnan Osman was quoted as saying by the national Bernama news agency. He said the embassy was evacuating those who wanted to leave and had also stocked up food and wager ahead of the Jan. 15 deadline given by the United Nations to page to quit Kuwait. Malaysia, a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, voted in favour of the resolution authorising the

chairman was quoted on Friday as saying. "The company's flights to Middle East countries and Arab Gulf countries will not stop unless they stop incoming flights by closing their airspace in case of war," Mohammad Fahim Rayan told Al Akhbar newspaper. Egyptair, he said, would not stop issuing tickets under any circumstances. If war crupted in the Gulf after Jan. 35, an emergency room would be set up to coordinate flights, he said. Al Akhbar also quoted him as saying Egyptair was already enforcing extra security measures. Egypt is a leading Arab partner of the anti-Iraq alliance. Fahim said Egyptair could cope with a two-month war in the Gulf, but if hostilities persisted longer than that the airline would have to turn to the government

Philippines to move workers if war starts

MANILA (R) — Filipinos are still leaving their impoverished nation to work in the Middle East despite fears a war is about to

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

16:20 Programme review
16:25 Children programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News Summary
18:10 Local series
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:39 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:50 Local programme
22:30 Arabic series
23:90 News in Arabic
23:10 Series continued
PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Le Cles de Fort Boyard
19:00 Newsin French
19:15 Aujourd'Hui en France
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Good Morning Miss Bliss
21:00 Encounter
22:00 News in English
22:20
Feature film: "He's Not Your Son"

PRAYER TIMES

..... (Sunrise) Duha (Sunrise) Dhuhr

Ast

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 685326. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

It will be partly cloudy and there will be a gradual rise in temperatures. Winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifleh, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

Terrasanta Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Annunciation Tel. Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Tcl. 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 811295.

CHURCHES

Dr. Mohammad Khalij Dr. Fayez Jallouqa Dr. George Sahouri ... Dr. Ahmad Al Natour Firas pharmacy Ferdows pharmacy Al Asema pharmacy Nairoukh pharmacy Al Salam pharmacy

Min./max. temp. 3 / 14 12 / 23 4 / 14 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12. Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 97 per cent. Aqaba 36 per

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

. 896294 . 624207 . 776751

778336

637055

623672

AMMAN:

Dr. Ali Al Shuqairi ZARQA: Dr. Abdul Karim Khashashneh

Overseas Calls .

Food Control Centre Civil Defence Department . Civil Defence Immediate .. **661**111 630341 Highway Police Traffic Police Public Security Department Hotel Complaints 630321 Price Complaints Water and Sewerage Complaints Amman Municipality 897467 787111 121

EMERGENCIES

774111 Water Authority Jordan Electricity Authority ...

AMMAN:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

..... (275825)

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.... 64281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.... 642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 6424262 Jabal Amman Maternity
Malhas, J. Amman
Palestine, Shmeisani
Shmeisani Hospital
University Hospital
The Islamic, Abdali
Al-Muasher Hospital
Al-Mahi, Abdali
Italian, Al-Muhajreen
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh
Army, Marka
Queen Alia Hospital
Amal Hospital 664171/4 . 669I3I 245R44 667227/9 . 666127/37 664164/6 891611/15

HOSPITALS

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt, Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital ... (09)991071 Ibu Sina Hospital (09)986732 IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital ... (02)275555-Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100 Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information depart-ment at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Other Flights (Terminal 2) Cairo (MS) Riyadh (SU) Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) Dubsi, Damascus (EK) Paris, Damascus (AF) DEPARTURES

(Terminal 1)

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

10:15

10:30 10:35 10:55

12:00 12:15 12:45 13:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ 13:15 13:45 21:10 Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 05:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

Othe	er Flights (Terminal 2)	l
09:1 5	Beirut (ME)	ı
14:00	Bahrain (GF)	
14:05	Coins (MC)	ŀ٠
14:49	Rivadh (SV)	
23:18	Riyadh (SV) Damascus, Paris (AF)	i -
	MARKET PRICES	<u>.</u>

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minower	160 / 100
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combers (large)	1807 120
CUMDCI3 (small)	4107 350
NCS	5007 400
gplant	180 / 140
tic 1	100 / 140
been a series de la	TUU / LUUU
1300	200 / 150
41HUW	180 / 120
arrow (191166) """	120 / 60
arrow (smail)	240 / 200
tion (dry)	
ion (250 / 200
tion (green)	150 / 100
T2	600 / 500
ange	400 / 250
PPCF (AOL)	200 / 150
pper (sweet)	150 / 100
tate	
tato	300 / 250
dish	150 / 100
ge	500 / 400

Cabbage Carrot

$\mathfrak{Q}_{\mathbf{a}}$ Conference to tackle aspects of Gulf crisis

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

.AMMAN - Aspects of the Julf crisis which have not been lealt with in depth are expected to be discussed Saturday at a one-day conference here.

The conference, organised under an initiative by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will discuss "those humanitarian and economic issues which have not been given the due attention by the international community," said Dr. Mazen Armouti, who is involved in organising the event.

The gathering will be attended by representatives of international organisations, experts and specialists as well as observers, Dr. Armouti told the

Jordan Times. The main focus of the roundtable conference will be four working papers, he said.

The first paper, to be presented by Salameh Hammad head of the Evacuee Welfare Committee, will deal with the prospect of Jordan finding itself hosting about one million refugees in the event of a military BRIE conflict in the Gulf.

Over 800,000 evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq passed through Jordan since early August, and Crisis Hammad, secretary-general of the Ministry of Interior, and other officials have said that the ingdom would find it very difficult to handle another massive human wave coming across the border if it was not suffiis a ciently supported by the inter-= - national community.

Jordan spent about \$60 million of its own funds on facilitating the transit of the evacuees until December, but it has received less than \$10 million from the international commun-

> The second paper, prepared by United Nations Children's Fund (UNCEF) Regional Director Richard Reid, will present the impact of the Gulf crisis on families and children.

Reid, releasing the annual State of the World's Children Report in mid-December, said that the Gulf crisis had compounded the financial situation of over one million Jordanians whom he said were living under among them, he said, are 130,000 to 150,000 who could it griss and the possible consequ-

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- official.

food needs. The main impact of the situation fell on women and children, according to Reid, who community," Dr. Armouti said.

By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

to nine per cent, depending on

the destination, as of Jan. 1,

2991, airline sources said Friday.

The increase in fares follows

International Air Transport

(RJ) official told the Jordan

🛩 💳 AMMAN — Airline ticket

prices increased by another six

Association (IATA) recom-

mendations, a Royal Jordanian

- Times. "IATA took the decision

. . . as a result of the increase in oil

from the Gulf crisis," said the

-, and insurance prices resulting

will increase by six per cent; eight

per cent is the increase for destinations in Europe and the Far

East and nine per cent increase to North American cities. The

Ticket for Arab destinations

Air fares hiked

increase affecting North Amer- risk" insurance, and the deican destinations will talke effect crease in passengers as a result Jan. 15.

riers.'

was quoting from the findings of a national survey conducted by UNICEF teams assisted by Jordanian officials.

The third working paper will deal with the impact of the Gulf crisis on the Jordanian economy and will be presented by Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jaber, head of the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA).

In a report released last month, ESCWA estimated that Jordan and Jordanians had lost \$8.3 billion in assets and savings in Kuwait, trade with Iraq and Kuwait, direct Arab financial assistance, expatriate remittances and transit charges on Iraq-bound cargo.

The fourth topic will be the consequences of the Gulf crisis on the Palestinian people living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians in the occupied territories are also among those hard hit by the Gulf crisis. The sole income for many Palestinian families in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was remittances from family members working in Kuwait.

Furthermore, as a result of what is widely perceived as Palestinian political support for Iraq some Gulf countries have also retrenched Palestinians working there.

The paper will be presented by Dr. Peter Gubseir, head of the American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), Dr. Armouti said.

Other subjects will be presented in the course of discussions, but no other working papers have been formalised. he added.

Amont the participants are U.N. General Assembly President Guido de Marco (who will arrive here from the occupied' territories Saturday), United Nations Works and Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees (ŬNŔWA) Commisioner-General Giogio Giacomelli, former Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit and former American Assistant Secretary

of State Richard Murphy. The aim of the meeting, said Dr. Armouti, "is to open the eyes of the international comregion in relation to the Gulf'

not afford to meet their basic ences of a military conflict. "We will leave it to the participants to decide what action to recommend to the international

According to the official, RJ

tickets "do not carry the addi-

tional \$50 to \$100 insurance on

each ticket levied by other car-

through a difficult period caused

by a combination of adverse

economic trends, the Gulf crisis

and continuing structural changes

in the industry itself," IATA

Director General Dr. Gunter

Since the Gulf crisis erupted

over five months ago, five major

airline companies have already

taken decisions to suspend their

flights to Jordan because "it is

no longer profitable under the present circumstances," accord-

ing to one European airline offi-

Most airlines cited the drama-

tic rise in fuel prices, high "war

Eser said last month.

The airline industry is going



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday addresses a group of Italian

Regent urges equal implementation of all Security Council resolutions

the Regent, has called on the world community to give due attention to the Palestinian issue and said that resolution 681 concerning the Palestine prob-lem should be implemented in "no less manner and resolve" than resolution 667 concerning the Gulf crisis.

Addressing a group of Italian journalists visiting Jordan, the Regent said that a U.N.sponsored international conference on the Middle East was the most feasible way to find a set-

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal tlement to the Middle East issue Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the Palestine problem.

The Regent stressed that there U.N. Security Council and the could be no peace in the Gulf or in the Middle East if a war broke out after Jan 15, date of the deadline set by the Security Council for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Prince Hassan called for reactivating and expanding the Euro-Arab dialogue, to cover all Arab states and promote their relations with the European countries; he underlined the importance of a Middle East security conference to ensure security and peace in the Mediterranean

region.
The Regent reffered to Satur-

day's round-table meeting in Amman to discuss the Gulf crisis and its harmful effects on Jordan saying that it was hoped that King Hussein's efforts in out a call to the Arab parlia-Chadli Benjedid, would help end the crisis and its serious consequences on Jordan's eco-

The Regent said Jordan still believed that a settlement of the Gulf crisis through diplomacy

Law on loan agreement referred to House

AMMAN (J.T.) — The govern- financing costs of purchasing Parliament a draft law on a loan Jordan and France.

Under the agreement, France before May 31 1990. will provide Jordan with a FF 100 million soft loan, payable over a period of 15 years, at an interest rate of 1.5 per cent according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The agreement which grants lordan a grace period of 90

ment has referred for endorse- French goods and services ment to the Lower House of ordered after Aug. 2, 1990. The remaining 25 per cent will agreement concluded between be used to pay prices of goods and services ordered for delivery

> The loan will be settled in 16 equal installments payable every six months, beginning with the second half of the year following commercial advisor, for the the expiry of grace period.

Under article 4 of the agreement no amounts shall be withmonths, provides for using up to drawn from the French treasury procedures thereof and exchange 75 per cent of the loan for loan after Aug. 31, except under ing notifications to this effect.

extraordinary circumstances and in accordance with a special agreement between the two gov-

The services and goods to be financed by the loan will be agreed upon by both the Central Bank of Jordan, for the Jordanian government, and the French Embassy's economic and . French government.

The agreement shall be in force upon completing the legal



A scene from the play Zakharefu Al Khalkhal Fi Muthalath Al Azman

Fantasy about man, time and dreams

By Abdullah Hasanat

one day, a mysterious power, from high above, had the bird fall. Upon contact with earth, some metamorphosis took place. The bird's beak turned into a face, its head grew larger and developed a brain, the wings became arms, while the blood seeping from its wounds quenched Earth's thirst and red

poppies grew from it. However, due to the great fall, the bird-turned-man lost its

Lack of rainfall is said to create an opportune climate for the white fly to spread, said the reports quoting agricultural en-gineers in Karameh and Shuneh

the government had allocated 3D 9.8 million to finance projects during 1991 aimed at ensuring food security for the country and helping farmers deal with problems resulting from weather cies. JD 500,000, the prime explores man's present agony, glimpses of his past and flashes cated for producing cereals, of his dreams. conditions and other emergen-

mistic note, the play portrays present-day man's agony under the ozone layer, more precisely without an ozone cover.

see in your depth the secret of existence." he attempts to assure her and himself at the same time.

attempts to float in the air. But they only manage to fly into their own dreams. They and shadows of the past (Hassan Darweesh and Zein Ghanma) hold dialogues with elements of the cosmos: The stars (Zeine Maqdadi, Ghalia Darwazeh, Manal Zakaria), the sun (Amer Khafash), the moon (Hassan Sabaileh), the sea (Najeh (Zein Ghanma and Muhanad Husseini) and the wind.

The dialogue, in standard variety of perecussion instru-

The play, the idea of director Darwazeh, who also wrote the script, was developed over four months in a workshop. Dar-wazeh herself supervised the theatrical rehearsals, Zeina Maqdadi the actors' movements, Merei Neameh supervised the actor's diction and costumes

Darwazeh says she had consulted Greek mythology, the Mesopotamian Gilgamesh Odysey and numerous scripts.
She extensively read Don Quixote, Rasoul Hamzetouf,

The "triangle of times," Dar-wazeh is probing is that of

and dreams.' The play symbolises the man's quest for truth. But since truth is relative and "only dreams are true," and since man only lives by dreams, viewers are presented with a one and half hours of dream full of music, dance and colours, A pleasant dream to take us away

Expelled Iraqi envoys deny involvement in 'illegal' acts

.By Ghadeer Taher

Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Six Iraqi diplomats expelled from Britain on national security grounds arrived in Amman Friday and denied involvement in any illegal activities.

The reasons for the decision are baseless," said embassy Press Counsellor Naiel Hassan upon arrival at Amman Airport on the way to Baghdad. "It is part of the psychological warfare against Iraq... it was very unfair and unjust," said the envoy, who was among the eight diplomats

He said he could not "predict" how his government

would react to the expulsion order. "We are still waiting," the envoy told journalists. The expulsion prompted specula-tion that Iraq would take action against the remaining Brit-ish Embassy staff in Baghdad. Britain Tuesday reduced its embassy staff from 16 to six.

The British government, citing "public threats," Thursday gave the diplomats 24 hours to leave the country. London also ordered the expulsion of 67 Iraqi civilians, mostly students.

They have one week to leave.
"The Iraqis have made a number of public threats. It is clearly prudent to take all precautions," a Foreign Office spokesman quoted by Reuters said. "The Iraqi threats have been once again linked to the possibility of hostilities.'

Hassan denied British accusations but warned that if there was a "war against Iraq then there are so many Arabs and Muslims in Western countries and of course they will attack targets there."

"They know very well we are not terrorists and we are working according to the law here," Hassan said in London

before leaving to Amman.

The expulsion of the eight diplomats left 15 diplomats and 17 support staff in Iraq's central London embassy. There are about 6,000 Iraqis living in Britain.

Britain has sent over 30,000 troops to the Gulf to join the American dominated multinational forces massed against Iraq after its invasion of

House calls for APU extraordinary meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) - The Lower Jordan News Agency, Petra. House of Parliament has sent Europe, which complement ments to convene an extraordinlegations to tour Arab and Islamic countries to present the Jordanian views with regard to the crisis, according to House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat. Arabiyat made the statement Thursday following a meeting in his office with ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in Amman for a review of the general situation

> for a peaceful settlement.
>
> At the meeting held upon the ambassadors' request, Arabiyat voiced Jordan's keenness on maintaining Arab solidarity and unity and deplored "any differences that mar inter-Arab relations and serve the goals of

Arabiyat warned against foreign intervention which could lead to a disintegration of the those of Algerian President ary Arab Parliamentary Union Arab World and called for unity (APU) meeting to discuss the of Arab ranks in the battle Gulf crisis, and has formed de- against Zionism and colonial

> with the GCC ambassadors was a step in the right direction and noted that Jordan tried to deal with all inter-Arab issues with an open mind and in a manner that would safeguard Arab solidarity. Arabiyat urged the GCC

countries to rectify their stand with regard to Jordan which, he in the Gulf region and prospects said, was seeking to reach a peaceful settlement to the Gulf issue to avert a war that would have catastrophic consequences.

The Kuwaiti ambassador to Jordan said in a statement at the meeting that the GCC countries were determined to maintain Israel and the enemies of the solid links with Jordan in a drive Jordanian Embassy in Riyadh to Arab Nation," according to the to safeguard Arab solidarity. a minimum.

The Kuwaiti ambassador voiced deep regret over the present divisions among Arab ranks and urged Arab countries to stand united in the face of plots hatched by the Zionist enemy.

Arabiyat said he discussed with the ambassadors, who rep-Arabiyat said that his meeting resent Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, relations between Jordan and their respective countries and said that parliamentary delegations which would be leaving on their tour soon would go to all the Gulf

> Jordan last month returned its ambassador to Rivadh after recalling him three months ago for consultations. Saudi Arabia has

not yet reciprocated the move. The recalling of the ambassador followed Saudi Arabia's decision to cut oil supplies to Jordan and to reduce the staff of the

Rally commemorates Fateh

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An estimated 25,000 people came to show their support for Al Fateh, the largest faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), at an international fair ground just outside of the Jorda-

nian capital Thursday afternoon. Men, women and children sang and chanted slogans as Salah Khalaf, second to Chairman Yasser Arafat in the PLO hierarchy, told them that Palestine "shall be liberated from the sea to the sea."

Khalaf, the final speaker of an impressive list of both Jordanian and Palestinian speakers who had come to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the PLO faction which was officially founded on Jan. 1, 1965, hailed

Jordan for seeking a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, it's democratic changes and its continued support of the Palestinian intifada.

Khalaf told a cheering and often unruly crowd that the "first voice coming out of liberated Jerusalem will call for unity with Jordan." Khalaf also called for Palesti-

nian unity and commended all political factions in the PLO for their "unyielding support to liberate the homeland." Naming each faction and group by name, Khalaf did not mention Hamas, the Palestinian arm of the Muslim Brotherhood which has refused to join the PLO ranks.

Among the prominent Jordanian speakers at the rally was Speaker of the Lower House Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat who told the crowd that Jordan would remain the place for continued support of the Palestinian peo-

We stand against aggression to prove we are one nation,' Arabiyat said. He also assailed Israeli plans supported by the U.S. and said the intifada chartered the road for Jihad (holy war) and liberation.

"Palestinians are sacrificing their lives every day, women and children are killed by Israeli occupiers every day and yet we hear no word of human rights violations from the United States," Arabiyat told the crowd.

Speakers belonging to all political trends participated in the rally voicing their support for the Palestinian struggle. The rally drew people from different parts of the city who came to show their support for Fateh.



INDONESIAN INFORMATION MINIS- the ambassador that a Jordanian parliamentary TER: Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul delegation would be visiting Indonesia soon, in the Latif Arabiyat discussed at a meeting in Amman. course of at tour of Arab, Islamic and probably Thursday with former Indonesian Information European nations, to present Jordan's views with Minister Burhanoddin Mohammad Dia means of regard to the Gulf crisis and the Kingdom's promoting cooperation between Jordan and In- efforts to achieve peace. Indonesia's amhassador onesia. The two sides reviewed the Gulf crisis to Jordan was present at the meeting. and current efforts to solve the issue peacefully,

Food coupons distributed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply announced that it had commenced distributing food coupons through 75 centres around the country and that distribution would continue from now and until March 31, 1991; the coupons will be valid only for the first four months of

According to ministry officials, there are now 19 such

centres in the Amman Governorate, 23 in Irbid, nine in Zarqa, six in Balqa, six in Mafraq, three in Karak, four in Tafileb, two centres in Aqaba and Madaba each and one in Maan Governorate.

"Citizens wishing to benefit from the coupons and buy milk, sugar and rice at subsidised prices, should produce their ration cards and valid family reg-

istration books to get them," said ministry officials.

Only Jordanian families can benefit from the subsidised items and each person can get one and a half kilogramme of rice and sugar per month and one kilogramme of powdered

milk every four months. Stores and supermarkets are stocked with all types of supplies and there are no shortages.

** Alawneh says government determined to help farmers AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of losses and the government is determined to deal with ment would try to help farmers

nian farmers, especially the

question of debts, and the Minis-

try of Agriculture is taking steps in that direction, according to minister of agriculture Mohammad Alawneh. In his first statement, following his appointment to the post in the latest government reshuffle, Alawneh said that the gov-

> tutes the backbone of the nationat economy."
> "There is a great need for I Jordanians to return to the land and to exploit farmlands for an increase in production in a bid to attain food security," Alaw-neh said in his statement to the

mers because "their work consti-

Jordan News Agency, Petra. Referring to the heavy damage to crops, especially to the tomato crop this year in the Jordan Valley region due to the harmful effect of the "white fly", the minister said that ministry teams would be touring the affected areas to estimate the

the grievances facing the Jorda- overcome these losses.

According to press reports, the total area damaged by the white fly is estimated at 20,000 dunums and losses are estimated at JD 10 million. The reports said that the white

fly had been affecting tomato crops growing in the Deir Alla and South Shuneh areas since 1978, and all attempts to eliminernment planned to support far- ate the pest had been in vain.

> Prime Minister Mudar Badran told Parliament last month that

The play, 'Zakharefu Al Khalkhal Fi Muthalath Al Az-Jordan Times Staff Reporter ONE legend has it that man was a graceful bird flying freely in the skies of mother Earth. But

memory. From that moment on it started a quest for its past and an attempt to see the future, and by doing so it messed up everything including its present. And now comes Sawsan Darwazeh, a direct decendent of the bird-man, to attempt to untangle the mess made by her fallen Father. "The bird became a dream and the dream

the master of man." Darwazeh and 12 young men and women, working together on the theme, the scenes, sequences and form, take us into a 90-minute nine-act fantasy that

man," (Ornaments of the Anklet in the Triangle of Times) opens Jan. 9 at the Royal Cultural Centre. Though ending on an opti-

Adam and Eve of the day, played by Muhtaseb Aref and Naderah Omran, agonise in the middle of the stage over the dilemmas of humanity. "I am barren," she screams. "But I

Deprived of their wings, Adam and Eve make graceful Mahmoud), the tree of life

Arabic, is accompanied by mystical rhythms played by Saed Judeh and Merei Neameh on a ments.

were designed by Wafa Qsous. To prepare for the script,

Nietzche, and Gibran Khalil

'Adam and Eve is past, present

from the harsh realities of life.

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

The unspoken assumption of

called staunchness.

jackal. We relive past glories after failing in the making and selling which constitute relevance. We don't sell cars or electronics or even beer, but we have guardsmen, tanks and the SAS. This is, or should be, a world with little need for ership so overreaches itself, major engagements. But as the U.S. in decline thrashes around towards war, Britain, fault surely lies in the U.S. long passed under, reaches up

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Doing is knowing

WASHINGTON'S belated offer to have U.S. Secretary of State James Baker meet his Iraqi counterpart Tareq Aziz maybe just a last-ditch public relations effort to silence opposition to war in the Gulf by the U.S. Congress and the European Community. There is growing evidence that rejection of the war option by both Democratic and Republican leaderships in the U.S. legislature is mounting steadily and has developed into a formidable block against armed belligerency over the Kuwaiti conflict. And with the foreign ministers of the European Community presenting their own peace initiative at the conclusion of their Luxembourg meeting, the U.S. may also "had" in mind to preempt the European "meddling" in the Gulf crisis and prevent it from coming to fruition. France, Italy and Germany have been sending behind-the-scene signals one after the other to the White House that they have growing qualms about destroying everything in order to save something in the Gulf. Being most directly affected by any outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf area, the EC countries have been sounding the alarm that their national interests do not necessarily correspond with those of U.S. President George Bush and his administration.

Iraq is therefore faced with a paradox. By accepting the U.S. offer to begin talks in Geneva may mean the abortion of the European initiative. On the other hand, to reject outright the U.S. initiative would have made Iraq look as though it is putting one obstacle after the other in the face of peace talks. With hopes pinned more than ever on the European brokerage for peace in the Gulf, Iraq may wish to accord priority to the EC countries' initiative since they seem to comprehend more than their big ally the U.S. that Baghdad must be seduced with a carrot in order to make it budge from its rigid position on the Kuwaiti occupation.

Under the circumstances, the Iraqi leadership may engage the Bush administration with very early negotiations in order to leave a breathing space for the European countries to act before it is much too late. The European foreign ministers may still contemplate contingency plans should the Baker-Aziz talks end up deadlocked by agreeing during their Luxembourg meeting on a set of proposals that would be activated the minute it becomes obvious that the Iraqis and the Americans on their own cannot bridge the gap between them.

Accordingly the EC foreign ministers should go ahead with their plans on the assumption that the Aziz-Baker talks would fumble. A miracle may not be born at the conclusion of the envisaged Aziz-Baker talks but such a meeting deserves to be given the benefit of the doubt. As long as Europe will be there ready and able to intervene at the last minute, then there can be no harm in going ahead with proposed Baker-Aziz exchange of views. If worse comes to the worst, Iraq would at least know that it has not left any stone unturned in the tortuous quest for reasonable and equitable accommodation in the Gulf region.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE proposed meeting in Switzerland between James Baker and his Iraqi counterpart Tareq Aziz is bound to be beneficial and that is why the move was welcomed by King Hussein, the British prime minister and other world leaders as well as the U.N. secretary-general, said Al Ra'i daily Friday. No matter which side took the initiative for the meeting, the move is a welcome development because it represents a last ditch attempt to avert war in the Gulf, said the par. It is noted however, that the proposal for the meeting came one day before the convening of European community countries foreign ministers in Brussels to discuss the issue as well as the Middle East question, said the paper. This proposal, the paper added, should not deter the European Community from assuming a leading role in mediating in the issue and in helping the two sides to reach a final agreement. It said that Washington and Baghdad are now called on to open the way for their ministers to achieve progress in their negotiations by providing a healthy political atmosphere free of all forms of threats and ultimatums if the coming talks are to succeed. The European countries are urged now to pursue their own efforts for a solution so that the Americans can not be left alone to deal with the question in a manner that would impose American begemony on the crisis, the paper noted. It said that the Baker-Aziz meeting should mark the beginning of a new endeavour on the part of the world community in general and the European Community in particular to delve into serious talks for

As was expected, the United States administration has taken a U-turn and given up its former insistance not to have any dealings with Iraq except under its own terms, said Al Dustour Arabic daily. The paper said that Washington's offer to open talks between Tareq Aziz and James Baker over the Gulf issue reflects the Bush administration's desire to take urgent steps that would save America's credibility before the Jan 15 deadline. The U.S. administration's decision to open direct talks with Baghdad underline the importance of the solid and firm stand of the Iraqi leadership which has been showing determination to confront the challenge posed by the U.S.-led alliance said the paper. But it should be noticed that the U.S. offer for talks represents a positive development at this juncture and it is one that came in respons to repeated calls by the American public, and the peace-loving nations of the world for negotiations with Iraq to avoid a catastrophic war, said the paper. Needless to say the opening of the door to negotiations is considered a major political gain for the Iraqi leadership which had rejected all forms of intimidation and blackmail and insisted on fair and just treatment, said the paper. The paper expressed hope that the new dialogue which will also be followed by others between Iraq and European nations will pave the ground for peace and save the Arabs and the world from catastrophes.

View from Amman

Living in the shadow of a sword

NOW that the new year, 1991, has just begun, and the beginning of the last decade of the twentieth century ushered in the hope is once again rekindled that, at last, sanity may prevail in the Gulf. So far one of the most singular features of the new year is the Jan. 15 deadline, itself an unprecedented occurance in historical annals. Never before in recorded memory has such a definite deadline been set between belligerent armies. Is this the age of

insanity? Are we going back to the cave?

Once again, we, Arabs have reminded that we still live in the shadow of the sword of Western intrigue and the black cloud of hatred created by Israel. The combination of these two forces: the West and Israel along with the merciless underground powers of the Zionist organisation, have maintained the insane and violent situation that continues to pervade the entire Middle Eastern area. And should resorting to arms become a reality on, or after the Jan. 15 deadline this insanely uncertain situation promises to become a permanent feature of the area well into the twenty-first

That is why the hope that sanity will prevail is so desperate and the need for reconsideration by all the parties to the dispute, so

Against the prospects of this bleak background however, some bright spots remain. Chief among these are: the continued efforts of His Majesty King Hussein, the first world leader to emphasise the need for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis, now commencing his personal efforts with an Arab and a European trip; the efforts of President Chadli Bendjedid; the contemplated Saudi, Syrian, and Egyptian meeting on this coming Friday which is to coincide with a meeting of the members of the European Community are also welcome. The European effort, first called for by German Foreign Minister Genscher will hopefully work towards convincing President Bush that the possibilities of peace are there and that they should be pursued.

Encouraging also are the efforts of the Japanese as well as those encouraging also are the efforts of the Japanese as well as those of the foreign minister of Yugoslavia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Most encouraging however, are the peace efforts within the United States itself where many congressional leaders have added their voices to the growing popular opposition of most cities and towns in the country.

Of course, questions of war or peace begin in the minds and the hearts of men. Vital is the question: what does the United States, leading the Western military coalition in the Gulf, want? Oil?

Strategic hegemony or what?

President Saddam Hussein has already indicated that Arabs cannot drink oil and that this commodity will continue to flow northward and westward as usual. Two major developments that occurred in the 1980's insure American strategic hegemony not only regionally but globally as well. First, the strategic treaty of alliance and cooperation between the United States and Israel, making us in the Arab World wonder who moves whom? This strategic alliance concluded in the Reagan administration has essentially given Israel the strategic depth of the power and the might of the United States militarily, technologically, politically and economically. It made Israel not only a regional but also an international power so it in turn helped in the emergence of the second major development of the 1980s: The collapse and political capitulation of the Soviet Union.

The two events are closely related to each other and future historians of the affairs of this epoch will certainly be able to see the connection more clearly than we do at the moment. How did

Mikhail Gorbachev come to preside not only over the collapse but also the possible dismemberment of one of the mightiest powers. in the history of man; an empire that once not only commanded one of the greatest military but also ideological powers in the world? Who, and for whose benefit, was Pandora's box of centrificent forces of the contribution of the centrifugal forces opened thus, and without a plan or a blue-print of the future of the Soviet Union; Or was the future of someone else in mind? Is the timing of the conclusion of the strategic alliance with the United States and the opening up of the flood gates of Soviet Jewish immigration a historical coincidence? Who is providing the material and who is providing the human resources to Israel and for what purpose?

These terrible questions are closely related to what is now taking place in the Gulf area. Iraq's and the Arab linkage of the Palestinian to the Gulf crisis stems from our experience with Zionism and its blind anti-historical fundamentalist drive to establish an empire. It is hoped that neither President Bush, nor other Western leaders, will, in the final analysis, realise that should they follow the Israeli advice nothing may remain but

And so it comes to pass that after all is said and done, this writer remains optimistic about the prospects of a peaceful resolution. To those amongst us, who like Israeli radicals, want conflict since it is the only way to deal with Israel, we must emphasize that Israel and day will be contained. emphasise that Israel one day will be contained and tamed. We must have confidence in ourselves and in our future. Our nation has faltered in the past and yet resurrected itself on several occasions. We can do it again. Peace is the master of all judgments and surely our peace can triumph over the Israeli death wish.

Talks

(Continued from page 1)

The King, who arrived Wednesday, was scheduled to continue his trip Friday with meetings in France, Germany, Italy and elsewhere, Foreign Minister Taher Masri said. The King also was to meet with leaders of Luxembourg, which assumed the rotating presidency of the European Community on Jan. 1.

The King's meeting with Major was attended on the Jordanian side by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, while it was attended on the British side by Foreign Secret-

ary Douglas Hurd. The Aziz statement on Friday came after the six-member. ruling Revolutionary Command Council met in emergency session in Baghdad to discuss the U.S. proposal.

Aziz said his government had hoped the United States would have behaved with more respect towards the right of countries to fix dates for their presidents to meet with foreign dignitaries. This was an apparent reference to Bush's refusal to accept Iraq's offer of Jan. 12 Baghdad talks with Baker. Washington had said it was too close to the Jan. 15 U.N. dead-

While House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Friday that the United States was encouraged by the decision to hold talks in Geneva.

'Obviously we made the offer (of talks) in a spirit of a final attempt at peace and it does give us some hope that they have accepted," Fitzwater told reporters. "And even though we don't have any details yet.... it is an encouraging sign at least that they're willing to talk."

Fitzwater, in announcing Bush's offer Thursday, said Baker would not negotiate with Aziz but would simply repeat the U.N. demand that Iraq quit Kuwait.

Baker is due to leave for Europe Sunday on a trip that also will take him to the Gulf region for talks with allied governments there.

A Swiss official has said Baker planned to arrive in Geneva on Tuesday night for a 21-hour stay. Switzerland later said its embassy in Baghdad was informed that Aziz would

Bush will meet U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar at Camp David in Maryland on Saturday to discuss the crisis and will deliver a national radio address on the Gulf at noon the same day, the White House announced.

Fitzwater said Bush's meeting with Perez de Cuellar would focus on "simply sharing all the knowledge that the president and the secretary general have on different people's positions ... (and) how (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein will react to the Jan. 15 deadline.

He said no new initiatives or missions were expected to emerge from the meeting with Perez de Cuellar.

Bush, buoyed by a poli showing Americans support his Gulf policy despite rising war itters, told congressional allies Friday he had extended his latest offer for talks because he wanted to "give peace another

The president discussed the Gulf crisis and the Jan. 15 deadline during a White House meeting with fellow Republicans from the House of Repre-

The Baker-Aziz meeting in

Switzerland next week has temporarily muted critics in Congress who have urged Bush to do everything possible to seek a peaceful resolution.

A survey by the Washington Post newspaper and ABC News found that 65 per cent of those polled believe the United States should go to war if it is deemed necessary and that 82 per cent believe Bush should move within a month after the Jan. 15 deadline expires.

It said seven out of 10 Americans believe Congress should be more actively supporting Bush in the Gulf crisis. Only one out of six inter-

viewed for the poll felt members of the House and Senate should be more critical of the president. The Washington Post also reported that Saddam, in talks

with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid last month, sought guarantees that Iraq would not be attacked by the United States or Israel following a withdrawal from Kuwait. The newspaper said "sources high in the Algerian government" described this as a hedged offer to withdraw by

Saddam and a major change

from his earlier insistence that

Kuwait would remain an integral part of Iraq. "What we believe to be going on is that the Algerians have had some success in getting Saddam to consider alternatives," a State Depart-ment official said when asked

about the report. "They feel they have Saddam at least thinking about other options," added the official, who asked not to be iden-

Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

rebuilding," Karami said.
"Militias should be dissolved if a true state is to be built ... we as a government admit that we can't solve this issue alone," Karami said of the private armies, which with 50,000 gunmen are stronger than the regular troops.

"We are certain that the international and Arab backers of the peace process and Syria will help us in overcoming this issue," the prime minister said.

The leaders of the country's two main Christian parties, the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia and the right-wing Falange Party, have refused to take their posts in Karami's government. LF chieftain Samir Geagea and Falange leader George Saadeh have complained the cabinet was "unbalanced" because it had too many pro-Syrian leaders and called for corganisation.

Karami said the government will not be affected if the two Christian leaders maintained their stands because "the move towards reconciliation is too powerful to be stopped.

We were surprised by the objections... all conditions that we are hearing today to achieve a balance are unjust and can't be implemented," Karami said. 'Any objection should be discussed within the cabinet."

"Their demands contradict the Taif agreement. Therefore we reject these issues... because accepting them means contradicting the Lebanese constitution," he said.

Karami said his government also planned to free South Lebanon from Israeli occupation through the implementa-tion of U.N. Resolution 425 which calls for the unconditional withdrawal of the Jewish state from its self-proclaimed "security zone."

Our guests from the West remain safe in our midst

By Mahmoud Al Kayed

RADIO stations and news agencies shower us daily with warnings and statements by foreign ministries of Western nations calling on their nationals living in Jordan and Yemen to leave these two countries before the Jan. 15 deadline set by the U.N. Security Council for Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait.

Had these countries been keen on safeguarding the lives of their nationals who might be caught in cross-fire should a war break out in the region, we would have accepted these warnings; but these Western governments are basing their warnings to their nationals on the assumption that they would be in danger of reprisals and assaults on them by the local inhabitants in the event of war in the Gulf.

The British Foreign Office and foreign ministries in the other European countries and the United States seem to have ignored the fact that our Jordanian people do not deal with foreign nationals on the basis of their government's stand vis-a-vis Arab causes, as Europeans and they tend to forget that foreign nationals in Jordan are considered as guests enjoying full care and protection and security in accordance with the norms of Arab hospitality. Concern over the welfare of foreign nationals is indeed a false one, and seems that it emanates from a vindictive and fanatic mentality harboured against people of the world by the hopeful successors of the British colonial empire who do not give any respect or value to humans.

Jordan has always been an oasis of security and stability; and all foreign nationals here are regarded as guests who would not be harmed on account of their nationality or because their governments are hostile to our Arab Nation. For Jordan, a foreign national is different from his own government, and this is a fact that does not require proof. Jordan's government and people have respect for all peoples of the world and their human rights; and they realise that many of the peoples of the world support Arab just causes and demand that their governments refrain from interfering in our region's affairs. Moreover, world-wide demonstrations have been staged in various Western capitals in which tens of thousands of people took part, raising their voices against war, condemning all trends towards aggression and injustice and oppression, and calling for justice and peace.

Therefore, all foreign nationals whether they are journalists, tourists or businessmen are quite safe and secure in Jordan; and the Jordanian people realise that the foreign nationals' views are totally different from those of their governments in the West.

The dangers of a weak man acting strong

By Edward Pearce

DOES anyone share my feeling that the grand crank-up for war in the Gulf, as well as being frightening to any onlooker with a tithe of imagination, is also comic? It is partly the scurrying around by the British after more ammunition, faintly reminiscent of the gret Victorian cordite crisis, and partly the comic indignation of the threats coming out of the President, Mr. Baker, the U.S. Defence Secretary and various hot and bothered British. There have also been the embarrassing contradictions from the military, like

General Schwartzkopf's judg-

ment that a war will take six

months, not the White House Terrible and wrong as a war would be, there is something comforting in the fo-furnmery of Mr. Bush. A man truly disposed to war, and ready to commit all the attendant crimes, does not talk like that. Indeed, a war is possible but not because Mr. Bush wants one. Apart from a crowd of truly unpleasant civilian strategic advisers and Lady Thatcher, it is difficult to say who does want a war. But a war we may get because an operation begun to sustain Saudi Arabia and embargo Saddam has been upped by. incompetent megaphone di-

unconditional surrender. Let us quickly run through some of the points made as the president shouted himself

plomacy into a demand for

Saddam is another Hitler. Disgusting as he is, Saddam operates not with a good chance of conquering the world, but with no prospect even of conquering part of the Arabian Peninsula. It took him eight years to win on points against Iran, gains now surren-dered. In al his ambitions he is shadowed and watched not just by a far from broken Iran, but by a bitter enemy in Syria and by Turkey, militarily the most competent nation in the re-

If Saddam is conquered, we will have created a new order. The Arabs have a great nervous pride and complex religious sensibilities. A Western 'Christian" victory in Arabia

will inspire short term asttempts to avoid war by sycophancy and long-term shouting about it will bring it hatred. Saddam is a hero to the about. One cannot commend Palestinians as a result of the conflict. Whose hero will he or his successors be among Arab peoples presently quiet and

comfortable? The U.N. is involved. The U.N. is the same meaningless wind band it always has been. Involvement in wars is measured by attribution of the dead. On "our" side the dead will be overwhelmingly American, with a scatter of Arabs and British. This is an American war fought to recover a client state and maintain face with oil producers, with Britain as highland gillie. You will look a long way for French, German and Italian dead.

There have been other instigators of dreadfulness sharing the noisy innocence of Mr. Bush. The Austrian satirist Karl Kraus portrayed Franz-Josef on stage as God in a long nightshirt saying "Ich hab' es nicht gewolli" — I didn't want it to happen.

too strongly the perception of Adrian Hamilton int he Observer that Saddam's likeliest motivation was not world conquest or even Arab domination, but an army on his hands and the fact of being broke.

Such a man is not placed to climb down, certainly not below the 1961 boundaries, the few square kilometres which can pass for a triumph. Otherwise, facing humiliation he is tempted to gamble to the very brink, reserving to himself the Wagnerian option of firing oil wells and going down with the world economy. Which leads one to consider

the wisdom of American leadership and our over-ready acceptance of it. It never seemed to me at the time that any great risk was involved in the Cuban missile crisis. Kennedy was a slight, oversold thing but he was surrounded by first-class advisers. Bush is taking advice from a school of

The U.N. is the same meaningless wind band it always has been. Involvement in wars is measured by attribution of the dead. On "our" side the dead will be overwhelmingly American, with a scatter of Arabs and British. This is an American war fought to recover a client state and maintain face with oil producers.

What strikes one, now as then, is the inadequacy of the protagonist. George Bush is nobody's twelfth choice of world leader. The truly frightening aspect of this amiable make-believe Texan is that his domestic politics look like deranged spaghetti. Two of his lieutenants, Sununu (White House coordinator) and Darman (budget director) have engaged in a ferocious quarrel with Republican congressmen at which the president can only wave a broken wrist.

The polls have shown since before the Gulf that he is seen domestically as a wimp. Is there anyone more dangerous on earth than a weak man acting strong?

The risk is that Bush's noisy

post-adolescent admirers of Clausewitz, war gamesters,

players with fire who do not

know that fire is hot. Khrushchev was in every particular same and realistic, playing for gains and placed to make concessions. There simply wasn't going to be a war. Saddam is an adventurer, shrewd and not a fool but volatile and informed more by myths than orthodox intelligence. There most certainly could be a war, one to kill and burn by alternate stages.

So what sort of world leadtaking such risks to such misconceived ends? Some of the

great and cherishable ally, not less so because of able liberal leaders like Truman and Ache-

But there has been a long era of U.S. non-understanding worldwide. The support of despicable regimes, from the Guatemalan putschists in 1954, through Marcos, the Somoza family, Ngo Diem, Hugo Ban-zer in Bolivia and the torturer and stadium executioner Pinochet, ought to have been evidence to us of a U.S. long engaged in hysterical realpolitik, unrealpolitik actually.

Any sort of criminal, any thief or psychopath, sound on communism was good for financial and moral underpinning. At the end of that list, to contain the new anti-Americanism of militant Islam, came Saddam Hussein!

The U.S., unable at home to contain a social collapse which has made murder there roughly what taking and driving away is here, is not morally equipped for the leadership of anything. A decade back she elected as president a senescent, rambling dolt who thought the South African' homelands policy was a mark of liberalisation. Bush is the improvement. He is a decent enough man for little things but the impression is of Tom King ruling a country.

the European states confronting the Gulf is that they will throw confetti at this wedding but they are not getting into bed. The British, in the way of a cashiered amorist, are pathetically keen. We are attached to the U.S. by the old Ditchley Park and English-speaking Union assumptions about affinity also what Margaret Thatcher

Britain is not even a decem herself. When Stalin was at his high point, the U.S. seemed a The Guardian.

(Continued from page 1) attack, and at least one international conference to be held on all Middle East issues.

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Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has insisted a withdrawal from Kuwait must be linked to a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The French source also said one should examine the possibility of finding a solution concerning the general security of the region.

France also foresees a diplomatic role for non-aligned and Arab nations and the United Nations.

In Paris, Mitterrand repeated that an international conference on the wider problems of the Middle East, including the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Palestinian question, should be treated as a matter of urgency.

He expressed disappointment that the Security Council, because of U.S. reluctance, had not passed a resolution to this effect but simply adopted a dec-

Mitterrand also said Baker would visit Paris for talks next Tuesday.

He said relations with Bush were very cordial and France was a loyal ally of the United States, but no one could dictate to it. France would abide strictly to the terms of U.N. resolutions on the Gulf crisis.

"All the rest... doesn't concern us and I will certainly not commit any French soldier to an objective which was not explicitly expressed by the Security Council," he said, stressing that the United Nations did not call for Iraq's destruction.

Asked about reports that some in Washington were pressing for the destruction of Iraq's war capacity, Mitterrand said: "I do not favour preventive war... France does not consider itself the world's policeman."

Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez said earlier Friday: "We should guarantee Saddam Hussein that if he withdraws from Kuwait he won't be attacked.

But the content of the (EC-Iraqi) dialogue must be to convince Saddam Hussein that there can be no peace unless he withdraws from Kuwait," he told reporters.

If Iraq refuses the U.S. proposal, "we will have a totally new struction," said Belgian Foreign

On Dec. 18, the EC had said it would meet with Aziz only after he had seen Bush. But American efforts for direct talks with Iraq had bogged down in a

dispute over meeting dates. Poos earlier said any EC meeting with Iraq would not include full-blown negotiations. It would centre on driving home the point that Iraq must leave Kuwait as a precondition to further developments.

Zaid Haidar, Iraq's ambassador to Belgium and the EC, told reporters that if Poos "only wants to explain the U.N. resolutions and to pressure us, he might as well stay home."

De Marco

(Continued from page 1) camps. Local Palestinian reporters were able to monitor his

activities, however. The army took the same step Thursday at camps he visited in

the Israeli-occupied territories. raised the idea of an initial step in the peace process. Israel

opposes such a meeting.
"Let's start with an international conference," de Marco said. "We want to avoid further suffering for the people of this region... the people of Palestine and the people of Israel both have to learn how to live side by

De Marco, who also is foreign minister of Malta, began Friday in a meeting in Jerusalem with leaders of Palestinian women's

De Marco was met by three children holding olive branches and signs as he went to meet with 11 women activists at the head-quarters of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which aids Palestinian refugees.

One of the signs said: "I demand from the United Nations a flag, an identity, a Palestinian state and peace." Following is the Security Council statement on violence in

Gaza issued Friday: The members of the Security Council are deeply concerned about recent acts of violence in Gaza, especially actions by Israeli security forces against Palestinians, which led to scores of casualties among those civi-

The members of the council deplore those actions, particularly the shooting of civilians. They reaffirm the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to all the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and request that Israel, the occupying power, fully comply with the provisions of the convention.

The members of the council reaffirm their positions, most recently expressed in Security Council Resolution 681 (1990). and support the work of the secretary-general in implementing the said resolution. They further urge intensified efforts by all who can contribute to reducing conflict and tension in order to achieve peace in the

Arab meeting

(Continued from page 1)

last moment, it could spare the world a devastating catastrophe... Iraq always surprises us with unexpected decisions,"

The forc leaders, represent ing both sides of the Arab divide over the crisis, issued no statement after the talks.

Sudan and Libya have condemned Iraq but have also rejected the military buildup in the Gulf.

JANA said the summit was a

"The discussions was pro-found and serious, marked by a spirit of historical responsibility. It concentrated on the results of the Kuwait crisis, its effect on the Arab reality and how to deal with it," the agency

Syria accused Iraq of blocking a peaceful settlement and said the four leaders discussed a joint effort to prevent war.

The official daily Al Baath, newspaper of Syria's ruling Baath Party, said Arabs were still capable of preserving their security despite Iraq's position.

"The (Misrata) summit is not only necessary to underline the weaknesses in the Arab situathe Gaza Strip. the first U.N. the first U.N. of a whole nation to fire," it General Assembly leader to visit said.

By Saeda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Statistics indicate that there have been 3,580 cases years in Jordan. The truth may depict a worse situation simply because either our laws do not allow the problem to be totally uncovered or because the victims themselves choose to hide their traumatic experiences.

Criminologists and psychiatrists maintain that social criticism, family structures and familial relations have hampered the emergence of these problems in turn preventing the interested authorities from obtaining precise figures.

One of the biggest problems children in Jordan face is that of sexual abuse. One of these cases is that of a 17 year old girl, Aysheh I., who had a nervous breadown, and was consequently admitted to several hospitals but without anyone tracing the

roots of her state. However, Aysheh was sexually abused by her father at the age of 13 and by her older brother later. She only revealed her problem to a psychiatrist. The father and the brother, the psychiatrist found out, abused the child whenver they have the chance in the absence of other our society by a member of the family members. The mother, who knew what was happening remained silent. The silence maintained by mother and daughter encouraged the father to do the same thing with his

younger daughter, aged 12.
"In the cases of incest, the father starts flirting with his child, usually following his a criminologist and a researcher, moves with presents and sweets, reveal that 61 per cent of the says Dr. Waleed Sarhan, a leading psychiatrist. Within a cerpoverished areas or in refugee tain period of time, the girl is the father becomes aggressive or he turns to her sister if he fails."

Sarhan attributes this kind of male members of the family, to disorders in their personalities, resulting from their inability to achieve personal satisfaction or psychological disturbances.

"The most dangerous of all abuses of children is incest," says Sarhan. "The child, however, does not realise the effects until later when the victim sufaround the age of 15." The subsequent psychological effects, according to Dr. Sarhan, are generally evident in the child's behaviour towards others. The child lacks confidence and does not trust any- sonal relations. body. The victim may also suffer from depression, excessive fear

Many cases of sexual abuse

The abused future

tionship between the molester and the child. If the former was a of child abuse in a period of five stranger, then the child would immediately report what hap-pened to his family. But if it was member of the family, then many years would pass before the child discloses the incident.

A study which was carried out in the United States in 1979 revealed that 25 per cent of females have been exposed to sexual abuse before they reach age of 13.

In Jordan, statistics indicate females is usually committed in family," Kholoqi said. "This may be due to our society's home.

While sexual abuses occur in different social milieux, they the poorer areas, where statistics compiled by Dr. Sabri Rubeihat, camps, while 27 per cent occurtrapped where she can't leave or red in rural areas and 9.2 per protest. If she tries to get away cent in more prosperous sub-

results to the areas' special debehaviour, from the father or mographic and environmental characteristics. These heavilypopulated areas are generally agglomerated and most of the families are so large are living in because they suffer from severe small spaces prompting the children to resort to the streets. "The presence of these children in the street, without any sort of guidance or supervision, makes them an 'easy victim'," he says. Researchers say that the reers from abdominal pains at sponsibility for sexual assaults on children falls on the society's different institutions. Such acts are only a reflection of the fai-

> "The society has failed in shaping the aggressor's personality". Dr. Rubeihat says. "The family has also failed in its

Uprising

Renault and injured two others, polic said. The army said she was the wife of an Israeli army ma-

Katanani returned to the right lane before trying to hit an oncoming Peugeot driven by an Italian, who managed to avoid the bus, and continued to drive,

About 300 metres from Erez, Katanani swerved into an Israeli passenger car, hitting it in the

eyes of psychiatrists. Sarhan in supervising and protecting and vegetables while talking the precise number of children points out that the discovery of them as well as preparing them with a schoolmate he encounsuch cases depends on the rela- to confront different problems in tered in the street. On the other abuses", Dr. Sarhan says. dance system."

The study pointed out that the motives behind sexual exploitation are generally attributed to the aggressor's feelings of disappointment and inability to deal with women.

that 565 moral crimes have been committed against individuals less than 19 years, 166 of these cases are against children less than 10 years. Statistics compiled by Hind Kholoqi, a researcher in this field, show that 641 cases of sexual abuse, which were discovered, took place in Jordan in the period between 1983 and 1988. "Contrary to sexual abuse of males, abuse of edicts on the girl to stay at

seem to be more distinguished in Dr. Rubeihat attributes his

lure of these institutions to look after children, by preparing them and organising their per-

remain hidden even from the methods of bringing up children,

(Continued from page 1)

and considers suicide.

sitting in the back seat of the

police said.

"The bus driver got off the bus, shouted 'Allahu Akbar. He had an iron bar in his hand. The (Israeli) driver ran towards Erez to call for help, and heared shots. What we understand is that reserve soldiers who came from the north shot the assailant and he was killed," a police

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life. Aslo, the absence of any side of the street was a policeacts from taking place is an intervene or stop the beating. indicator of defects in the gui-

According to Rubeihat's research, which was carried out on my son and I do not allow you to cases which occurred in the period between January 1986 and July 1988, 39.6 of the assailants were students, while labourers constituted 20.6 per cent. And while most of the assaults (85.7 per cent) were committed by Jordanians, the research reveals that Egyptians, who make up only 6 per cent of the population in Jordan, committed 11.5 per cent of the sexual assualts on children.

The most dangerous child abuse is physical abuse. Parents beat their children costantly and sometimes so hard that they (the children) are taken to hospital for treatment. Being afraid of the consequences, the parents sometimes hide their childrens' injuries and fractures leaving them to heal by themselves.

"Related stories of physical abuse are the most spread-out in the country and frequently the parents invent stories of their children falling from stairs or something similar", remarks Sarhan. "And because of the absence of any law that protect the child's interests, some parents think they have the full right to treat the child (any) way they see suitable."

A man was beating his child (severely) in one of the streets in downtown Amman but nobody cared or dared to stop him. Whispers from the surrounding spectators blamed the child for that would reveal the real mo- ple of words, "divorce me". his 'atrocious' behaviour of spill- tives behind all crimes commit- "Upon investigating this case, ing down four packages of fruits ted make it difficult to find out the psychiatrist found out that the little girl.

When the father was questioned why he is beating the child so harshly, he responded: "He is

interfere in our family affairs." Sociologists attribute this kind of treatment to the parents' personalities as well as to those of children. Parents' ignorance of the correct child-raising method is also an essential point. "Some people who beat their children physical abuse remain much think it is the best way to raise them," points out Dr. Rubeihat. "it is seen by many parents as discipline."

Another case was reported to one of the hospitals of Amman was of a three year old child who suffered from bruises all over in severe psychological consequher body. The young child was ences about which the parents crying constantly so the mother know nothing. "lost her patience" and spilled Child neglect takes several hot water on her. Impatience has forms of which the most impor-

problems."

Some of these injuries,

who died as a result of physical

The number of crimes cominstitution that may prevent such man who did not even try to mitted in the kingdom during acts from taking place is an intervene or stop the beating. 1986 were reported to be 66 cases in which 69 people were killed, 12 of whom were under 18 years of age.

Dr. Rubeihat points out, in his research on child abuse, that 2622 children were exposed to severe physical abuse between the year 1986 and July 1988. "One must consider that these figures are only official ones," he said, "uncovered victims of more and they are still hidden from the public."

Childrens' suffering extend to that of sexual and physical exploitation. The negligence and indifference of the parents towards their children may result

also driven another to stick nee- tant is that of medical care. dles in her two year old baby Parents tend to deny or overlook who was suffering from fever. the existence of any serious ill-"The child who is victim of ness suffered by their children physical abuse is also victim of and refuse to provide medical the parents' inabilities to deal treatment for them. This is manwith the child," explains ifested by their indifference if Rubeihat. "Some parents think the child suffers from weaknesthat the beating may decrease ses in his vision, or having high a lot". The girl looks very angry their anger, but it is not benefitemperature, etc. The most comcial to the child. On the con- mon in our countries, according job and go to school. "It is not trary, it may teach him/her to to Dr. Sarhan, is the parents' resort to violence when facing flouting of the doctor's instructions.

One of the cases which was according to psychiatrists could reported to a psychiatrist is that lead to disfiguration, physical of a ten year old child who lecting the cans while her two and psychological harm, but it appeared to be totally deaf, cripmay also lead to death. "Insuffi- pled, and dumb. The child, cient information and research however, could only utter a cou-

the child was abandoned by both her father and mother at a very early age. "Evidently, they left her for nealry eight hours a day to go to work and no one looked after her,' during that time" he

"It is amazing how she survived until now. How was she able to feed herself? She may even have come across any instrument that could kill her", Sarhan says. the most astonishing thing is that her parents do not care and don't pay any attention to whatever may happen to her. What's more is that they were able to hide their behaviour from all people except her aunt who reported the case."

The parents' insufficient supervision of their children is particularly evident in the number of children suffered severe injuries resulting in their death in same cases as a result of car accidents. Dr. Rubeihat's statistics show that 3159 children under the age of 15 were victims of car accidents of which 2492 (78.8 per cent) resulted in death.

"I work to provide enough money for the family." says a 12-year-old girl who is found collecting empty soda cans from litter bins on the street. "I can get up to three dinars daily from sellig them. This helps my family when she is asked to give up the only that I will be beaten up, but also because there is no place to stay at home. I feel more free in the streets than at bome."

The tanned girl continues colyear old sister is crying incessantly at the other side of the street. I can't leave her at home because my mother is sick; she will be used to it with time," says

Children remain on the streets

By Serene Halasa Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - "God keep you, god protect you, please give me money," a ten year old girl, Leila, asked a well dressed woman walking down the street in Shmeisani. The woman brushed past the little girl, ignor-ing her pleas, and disappeared into one of the stores in the area Leila, tried to follow her, then changed her mind and looked around for another benefactor. "Sir if you give me money I will shine your shoes," a seven year old boy, Omar, said to a young man. The man, apparently taken aback by the boy's comment, smiled down at him and pulled out a crisp one dinar bill from his pocket and gave it to the boy. Omar snatched the money from the stranger, smiled up at him and ran down the street.

Leila and Omar are street children, a phenomenon that has become an everyday reality in Jordan. These children roam the streets begging for money using all possible means to achieve their goal. "Usually we make 4 to 5 dinars a day," said a little girl when asked how much she made a day. "People are nicer to younger kids. They usually tell Israeli troops swooped on a the older off, saying to them: hilltop village in the occupied you should go out and find a job instead of begging.. things like a Palestinian they had been that," she added. "I don't hunting for two years, relatives understand why they say this. I know many kids who work realy

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streets," another child said.

live on the streets make a living off begging and doing other petty jobs are driven away from a normal and stable family life. These children don't have a healthy environment. Most of them come from broken families, with no education, and no stability in their lives," he added.

"Most of these kids prefer to live on the streets than to have a stable job," Dr. Waleed Sarhan, psychiatrist said. He added that the reason most of those not offered better alternatives. streets and make enough money there without having to work for it the idea of having a job just does not suit them," he said. "This of course does not mean all children are like this but it is rare to find a healthy child between them," Sarhan said.

LOOKING

much money as we do on the feeling he has, and ends up Sarhan said. reinforcing what the kid is The society ignores the prob- doing," Sarhan said. "For exam- too far, its laws made it too hard lem of street children because ple I know a 15 year old kid who to bring children up," Sarhan the belief is that by ignoring the makes money off the streets, by said. He explained that a new problem it will simply dis- the end of the day he drinks law in Jordan would give a cerappear," Sabri Rbeihat, a sciologist and criminologist at of cigarettes and takes one box the Public Security Department of valume," Sarhan said. "This there is an actual case against the (PSD) told the Jordan Times. is an example of kids who turn child. ole of kids who turn He said that these children who into delinquent adolescents and

who become a burden on the society," Sarhan added. Dr. Sarhan said that these kids are a product of broken families. or families with multiple marriages, low socio-economic standards and poor upbringing. "Sometimes these children are pushed to work in the streets by an adult for example a step mother, or a bossy father, or even an older brother or sister,"

Sarhan said. He also added that the adult usually masterminds the child's actions and tells him kids end up going back to their or her what to do, and what to street lives is because they are say. "Sometimes they make the child wear skimpy clothes when When these kids live on the its cold so that the child looks as poor as possible," he added. "What we should do is find ways and alternatives to keep

these kids off the streets. Sarhan said adding that this kind of alternative would belp these kids in forming futures and in stabilising their lives. "We "We have to raise the public should also enact laws in our awareness about these children legislation that protect the chilshould also enact laws in our unified view to all social probbecause when a person pays a dren from the family, when Rheihat said.

hard, but they don't make as kid he does it to relieve a guilt these children are at risk,"

"The United States has gone

In Jordan the first effort came with the formulation of the national committee in 1988. "This committee was founded in order to study and suggest a policy to deal with this problem (street children)," Sabri Rbeihat said. He added that his committee had set up a draft to tackle the problem in cooperation with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) but the draft was never adopted. "It was supposed to be launched in April 1989 but due to some internal problems in the Kingdom it was never launched," Rbeihat said.

On the pan-Arab level Rbeihat explained that in cooperation with the the higher Arab Council for Children based in Cairo another draft was drawn to tackle this problem in all Arab countries. "Unfortunately this also failed because of the recent Gulf crisis," Rbeihat added.

"The only way to deal with this problem is to formulate a lems including this one,'

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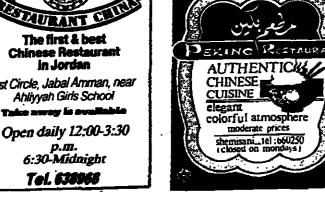
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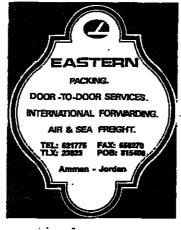












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12-year-old Chinese wins first world swimming crown

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Fu second day. Mingxia became water's youngest world champion Fri-

The 12-year-old from China, who was kicked out of a school gymnastics programme at age 8 because she was getting too old, spun past much older, more experienced opponents to win the women's platform title at the World Swimming Cham-

Elena Miroshina of the Soviet Union won a tight battle for second place with a spectacular final dive, while American Wendy Williams took third Olympic champion Xu Yanmei faltered in the late rounds.

Fu finished with 426.51 points to 402.87 Miroshina and 400.23 for Williams. Xu finished fourth with 399.12.

Fu, the platform champ at last summer's Goodwill Games, was the youngest entrant in any event in the 19-year history of this meet and thus the youngest world champion.

That's an honour she's guaranteed to retain for a long time. The world body of aquatic sport, FINA, voted this week to place a 14-year-old age limit on future Olympics, world cham-pionships and World Cup meets. Fu will be all right for the 1992 Olympics because of a loophole in the new rule, but for the time being her foes can breath easy. 'She would be a phenominal

diver no matter how old she Williams said. Fu was the first champion crowned at the meet, which also featured the start of men's diving and women's water polo on its

Edwin Jongejans of the Netherlands, an outsider who inished eighth in the 3-metre at the 1988 Olympics, topped the preliminaries for Saturday's finals with 573.78 points. Chinese

Liangde at 563.34. America's Mark Lenzi was fourth with 555.90 points despite competing with tendinitas of the left ankle that hurt every time he bounced on the board.

divers were second and third -

Wang Yijie at 571.11 and Tan

'I'm going to go home and put ice on it," Lenzi said. "I'm used to dealing with pain and I'll put it out of my mind tomorrow.' Mark Bradshaw, the "U.S. Diver of the Year," was sixth at 543.81. He said that the judges were marking tightly on the big

field of 33 competitors but was

pleased to qualify. The top 12 in

prelims advance. "The whole idea of preliminaries is to get into the finals." Bradshaw said. "Tomorrow, I'm going to do the same things with a little more emphasis on shar-

per entries. Canada, behind four goals from sisters Marie-Claude and Pascale Deslieres, beat France in the water polo opener. New Zealand played Germany and the United States met Australia

Two American sisters Karen and Sarah Josephson, took the lead after preliminaries in duet synchronised swimming, getting three perfect 10's and edging the Japanese pair of Mikako Kotani

and Aki Takayama 98.96-98.40. "It was a great swim and we felt good about our performance."

audience.' Canada's Kathy Glen and Lisa with Sunday's figures to determine the eight finalists.

Fu stands 148 centimetres tall are made. and her listed weight of 41 kilogrammes (90 pounds) seems an "I'm getting used to compet-exaggeration. But when she ing against girls this age," said hurls her tiny body off the 10-23-year-old Williams. "I've been rammes (90 pounds) seems an metre platform and aims for the to China and they have an inpool below, she becomes a credible programme for the whirling bullet headed straight kids. for the target.

She hit the bulleye time and time again in the finals. Fu was second to Xu in Thursdid not expect to come out on

"I was not even thinking about getting a medal," she said. was just concentrating on

thinking about the next dive." Her round of eight dives not spectacular — her highest indi-vidual mark any judge was a lone 8.5 on her third dive — but she avoided the low scores that bedeviled Williams at the beginning and led to Xu Downfall at

She was second, right on Xu's tail, through the fifth round before the teammates produced widely different results from the same dive in the sixth, a forward 3 1-2 somersault from the pike

Fu, diving first, spun through attempt. the routine so tight and swiftly that it almost seemed she had time for a fourth tumble before that dive for 9's."

Karen said. Her sister added: "It hitting the water and won her was easier than in practice. It highest total thus far, 65.70 was exciting to swim for an points.

Xu, up next, had struggled on the previous round and now Alexander were third in the pre-liminaries, which are combined of 5's and 6's for a 52.20, her lowest mark in the late rounds where the more difficult dives

The kid was ahead to stay.

Miroshina took second with the day's best dive, a backward 1 1-2 somersault with 3 1-2 twists in the last round that won the day's preliminarie and said she lone "9" of the session. Williams needed a top performance to take a medal and - while her inward 2 1-2 somersault produced her best scores of the day - it left her behind the Soviet champion with the Chinese pair still to go.

"I felt really bad," Williams said. "But my coach came over and told me, wait until the Chinese dive. Now, I feel great."

Xu missed the bronze by 1.11 points when her backward 2 1-2 somersault came up short. It gave Williams a worldchampionship bronze to go with her bronze from the 1988 Olympics, which was won in very similar circumstances when Anjela Stassioulevitch of the Soviet Union just missed on her last

"It was so much like Seoul." Williams said. "Xu usually drills

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Agassi to play at Wimbledon

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Andre Agassi says he'll play at Wimbledon next summer, but he isn't promising to tone down completely his colourful tennis togs. In an interview on the television sports network ESPN, the flashy tennis star responded to questions that he might never play again at Wimbledon because of the tournament's dress code. The rules require players to wear conservative clothing, with white the dominant colour. "I think you'll see me there this year and I hope people are ready for it," he said Wednesday. Agassi, 20, is ranked no. 4 in the world. The flamboyant, long-haired native of Las Vegas is known for his fluorescent tennis outfits.

Fromberg reaches BP semifinals

Australia overcame an early lapse to defeat Ramesh Krishnan of India 5-7, 6-4, 7-5 Friday to advance to the semifinals of the \$175,000 BP Nationals Tennis Tournament. Fromberg will play Christian Bergstrom of Sweden in Saturday's semifinals of the opening event of the 1991 IMB-Association of Tennis Professionals Tour. Unseeded Bergstrom advanced with a 6-2, 7-6 (7-1) win over qualifier Dimitri Poliakov of the Soviet Union in the other quarterfinal Friday. Omar Camporese of Italy, the no. 6 seed, and unseeded Lars Jonsson of Sweden will play in the other semifinal Saturday, having advanced with quarterfinal wins Thursday. The lanky Fromberg, a member of the Australian Davis Cup team, took two and a half hours to subdue the experienced Krishnan. "He's very difficult to play," the Australian said. "You can't hit a bad shot and if you hit short he's straight into the net." Krishnan said he felt the match could have gone either way. "It was a photo finish," he said. "When it finishes that close it can always go either way. Any time you lose you're disappointed but I was still pretty happy with the way I played.

exhibition tournament at Adelaide.

Milla voted player of the year

PARIS (R) — Roger Milla, Cameroon's veteran World Cup star with the magic touch and the wiggling hips, was voted African footballer of the year in a Soccer Writers' Poll, it was announced Wednesday. The 33-year-old Milla, who came out of retirement to provide some of the most memorable moments of the World Cup finals in Italy, took the award for the second time, no less than 14 years after first claiming it. Milla, scorer of four goals as Cameroon became the first African nation to advance to the World Cup quarter-finals, received 103 votes in the joint poll by the magazines France Football and Afrique Football. Second was Algerian midfielder Cherif El Ouazani with 64 votes and joint third were forward Rabah Madjer, also of African champions Algeria, and Cameroon striker Francois Omam-Biyik, scorer of the goal which beat defending champions Argentina in the opening match of the World Cup, both with 60.

MEXICO CITY (R) — The World Boxing Council (WBC) has heaped double honours on its super-lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez by naming him "Boxer of the Year" for the second successive year and winner of 1990's of best overall fight. The WBC crowned Chavez as the year's top performer for his two successful title defences that extended his record of unbroken victories to 72. His defence against American challenger Meldrick Taylor in Las Vegas in March was classified as fight of the year after Chavez pounded his opponent to the floor in the 12th round, a WBC statement sanonai victory The fight was very close for 12 rounds and Chavez knocked Taylor out in the very last seconds," WBC President Jose Sulaiman told Reuters in a telephone interview. The 28-year-old Chavez, widely consi-

Unseeded Japanese reaches Brisbane semifinals

BRISBANE, Australia (R) - hours 21 minutes to beat 19-Akiki Kijimuta became the first year-old McQuillan 6-2 6-7 (4-7) Japanese player to reach the 6-3. semifinals of the Australian Championships after upsetting Australia's best hope, Rachel McQuillan, Friday.

Unseeded Kijimuta took two world, also beat former world

LYON, France (Agencies) -

World Chess Champion Garry

Kasparov has announced he

would donate his chess trophy —

worth about \$1 million - to a

charity helping homeless Arme-

"Feeling the responsibility of

being one of them I believe that

this symbol of my victory should

help them (Armenians). That is

why I have decided this trophy in

money will be distributed among

At the closing ceremonies,

Kasparov, 27, received the trophy studded with 1,018 di-

those people." Kasparov said to

Congres.

rest finare will be sold at

"This week I've been very Women's Hardcourt Tennis relaxed," said 22-year-old Kijimuta. "I always felt in control

started with a tragedy.

number three Pam Shriver of the

in today's match. Kijimuta, ranked 115 in the

Kasparov donates trophy can do it too." to homeless Armenians allowed Kijimuta to rush to a 5-1

> disappointed with her form. "I won the world championship in the final minutes of the year," Kasparov said Wednesday, adding that he had that's usually my best shot."

not forgotten "that the year He referred to the thousands of minority Armenians who fled Baku, his birthplace on the Caspian Sea, during violent ethnic clashes with Azerbaijanis.

He was draped with the wina chartiy auction and all the ner's medal and declared champion for the next three years. In a brief news conference a standing ovation at the award after the ceremony, Kasparov ceremony at Lyon's Palais De said he planned to return to the United States to promote chess.

Karpov said he would go to Moscow for meetings with his amonds and a check for \$1.7 groups, Aid For Chernobyl and the Soviet Peace Fund, before Challenger Anatoly Karpov, moving on to another tourna-39, received \$1.3 for his losing ment in Italy.

GOREN BRIDGE

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1-East-West vulnerable, as On the second s As dealer, what action do you take?

A .- You have too much defense and not enough offense to consider a three-level preempt. Change the ace of diamonds to the king of clubs, and the hand would be perfect for a non-vulnerable three-club opening. Pass. You can always get into the act later.

Q.2-East-West vulnerable, as South you hold: ★7 7542 0 7542 0 A10 4 A986542 The bidding has proceeded: North East Pass 1 + Pass Pass

What action do you take? A.-With two aces and a sevencard suit, as a passed hand you have too much playing strength to respond one no trump. Bid two clubs to see how the auction develops.

Q.3-East-West vulnerable, as South you hold: A10 + A986542 The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ± 2 ÷ Pass Pass Pass

What action do you take? A .- Your hand is suitable for play in clubs, and nothing else. Clue partner in on your seven-card suit by rebidding three clubs.

Q.4-Both vulnerable, as South you

♦KJ9 ♥Q10943 ⊕J52 **⊕**108 Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

There are those who believe that any time you have five-card support for partner's major, and a limited hand, you should leap to game. Include us out. We insist on a singleton somewhere. This hand is too balanced for a jump to game, so we would settle for a raise to two

Q.5-Both vulnerable, as South you **♠ Void** ₹ KJ43 ₹ KQ7 **♣** KQJ964 The bidding has proceeded: North East South Pass 2 2 ?

What action do you take? A:-Normally, when the opponents have bid one major and you hold the other, you should enter the auction with a takeout double if you are strong enough to compete. Here, however, there is too great a dispari-ty in the suits. We would opt for a three-club overcall.

O.6-Neither vulnerable, as South South West 1 NT 2 7 North East Pass Pass

What action do you take? A.—A very close decision. We would not blame you if you passed. However, our four-card holding in the other major prompts us to double. In the pass-out seat, under the overcaller, that action is primarily

third seed Austrian Barbara semifinal. Paulus on her way to Saturday's semifinals. She is the first Japanese player

nine-year history of the hardcourt tournament. "I think it's good for Japanese

think 'if she can do that, maybe I Ninth seed McQuillan, who

lead in the first set, said she was "I didn't serve very well," said the world's 39th-ranked player. 'My forehand let me down and

McQuillan said Kijimuta's solid double-handed forehand and backhand groundstrokes kept her pinned to the baseline. "I tried to come in but it was io, one of the world's leading hard because she kept the ball so

former two-time winner of the tournament. took just 58 mi- niously broke up the most sucnutes to end the hopes of former cessful partnership in women's world junior number one, un- tennis, Helena Sukova and Jana seeded Cristina Tessi of Argenti- Novotna are still feuding.

Mutt'n'Jeff

TWO O'CLOCK! TO CAN'T FALL ASLEEP!

THINK I'M GETTIN'

Andy Capp

Peanuts

ONE OF THE

GREAT JOYS OF

LIFE IS SITTING

TREE WHILE BIG

BY YOUR CHRISTMAS

FLUFFY SNOWFLAKES

FLOAT GENTLY TO

THE GROUND.

SLEEPY NOW-MM--AT LAST --

IN BED THREE HOURS

Number two seed Sukova won United States and tournament 6-2 6-1 to go through to the Sukova was the only seed to

make it through to the last four. Fifth seed Sabine Appelmans to reach the semifinals in the of Belgium went down 6-4 2-6 6-4 to Soviet Larisa Savchenko who beat top seed Jana Novotna on Thursday - and tennis," Kijimuta said. "If I play American Linda Harvey-Wild good, other Japanese players routed fourth seed Judith Wiesner of Austria.

> Harvey-Wild, 19, beat Wiesner 6-1 6-4 to march into her first semifinal on the women's tour. 'God gave me certain abilities and I'm starting to use them now," she said.

"I've got a lot more shots than

most girls and I think my game's just taken longer than other people to come together." Harvey-Wild, who beat Spain's Arantaxa Sanchez Vicar-

players, in her first tournament

Czechoslovak Helena Sukova. year, now plays Sukova. ormer two-time winner of the Six weeks after they acrimo-

WOKE ME UP AN

I CAN'T WAIT
TO START,
ANDY THANKS
FOR
SELECTING ME

U

MUTT! MUTT!

HEY, MUTT!

HOW DID THE WEDDING GO!

OKAY, ANDY, BUT WE HAD A TERRIBLE ROW

- ON OUR -HONEYMOON

WELLINGTON (AP) - Third-seeded Richard Fromberg of

McEnroe drops out of NSW Open

SYDNEY (AP) - American John McEnroe has withdrawn from next week's New South Wales Open Tennis Tournament due to a back injury, a tournament spokesman said Friday. McEnroe hurt his left shoulder while practicing near his Los Angeles home, his agent said. The 31-year-old lefthander was planning to use the New South Wales Open at Sydney's White City courts as a tuneup for the Australian Open beginning Jan. 14 in Melbourne. His status for the year's first Grand Slam tournament is not clear, Tennis Australia officials said Friday. Organisers of the 64-player New South Wales tournament are still waiting for a decision from German Boris Becker, who has been offered a wild card for the tournament that begins Monday. Becker is also considering an offer to play in an

WBC names Chavez boxer of the year

dered the best boxer in the world pound-for-pound, also won the WBC "Boxer of the Year" award in 1989.

YEH, I AM NOW!

GREAT, LAD. MOST FOLK DON'T SETTLE DOWN TO MARRIED LIFE SO

OR A NICE

SANDSTORM

CAN'T SLEEP

EITHER HUH?

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JANUARY 5, 1991 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

HOROSCOPE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Distinguish between the real and the unreal, the solid and the secure. the flighty and the frivolous, the spiritual and the temporal if you expect to utilize tonights good

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) What you want the most and that takes something to mature can now be yours if you let usual allies know just what you have in mind and get

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Keep your attention focused upon those material but private yearnings that are yours and you find that you are able to get some

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are wide awake and filled with the desire to be with some proven friends and to gain the goodwill of those who are socially experi-MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

July 21) Your mind is quickly thinking out the means by which you can get some expert to confidentially release his-know-how to your benefit. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You

now are able to get together with those you like the most to get a new and fresh awareness what is necessary to please them and show

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you have in mind that requires some contact with an

executive can bring you the flowing to you easily. LIBRA: (September 23 to October

22) You are so filled with all kinds of interesting ideas that you can well discuss them with experts and get them to go along with what is important.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to Novem ber 21) You now find that most everyone expects you to carry through with what you have agreed do and in doing so you get lasting respect from them. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to

start to get the goodwill and active assistance of associates in the ven-tures that mean the most to you can produce results. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Show that you have

December 21) Making a fresh new

ability to carry through with that plan that you scheduled sometime ago and that means your work is thought interesting. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to Febru-

ary 19) What a time you can have today and tonight so take the wraps off delaying activity of a pleasant nature and thoroughly enjoy yourself.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have some very basic things to do that can bring you the goodwill of your own household if you put them into motion with your own sense of humor.

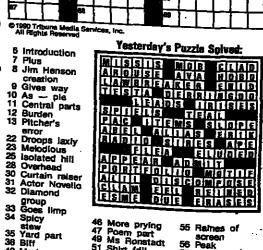


JUMBLE THAPBURAMBLED WORD GAME
by Heart Arrold strid Bob Lee Unscreenble these foor Jurnoles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words. VOGEL KRIHE INNACE WHAT THE NUDIST CAMP'S STAR ATHLETE RAN A HUNDRED YARDS IN. **GOHBUT** Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as sug-Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLOUR PIETY MALADY TERROR

Answer: He wasn't contented with his lot--always asking for this-A LOT MORE

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia L. Yates 1 Cut it close 7 Church part 11 Watch chain 14 Celestial object 15 Moon over Roma 16 Go sit — 17 Cosmopolitar 18 Vichy et al. 19 —-de-sac 20 "— was saying..." 21 Data plater 24 — of roses 25 Chin. name 26 Jacob's brother brother Brillance 29 Dispatched 33 Kind of pitch 37 206 38 Hilo hello 38 Hilo hello 39 Cry 41 — fire (ignite) 41 — fire (ignite) 42 Beam 43 Party bore 45 Lucifer 47 Barrel slat 48 Nat or Natalle 50 Destroy 51 Pickle 54 Unrellable Yesterday's Puzzia Solvad: 7 Plus 8 Jim Henson creation 9 Gives way 10 As — ple 11 Central parts 12 Burden 13 Pitcher's error



63 Hook's

60 "— sach life..."
61 Cold place 64 Seine site 65 Blissful abc 68 Wolflike

DOWN 1 Unitedged bit 2 Bane 3 Enthusiastic 4 "This — recording"

Yard part Bitt Mark a trail

51 Shirt frill 52 Drop — (write) 53 Sociable

ASEAN draws oil plan in event of war in Gulf

MANILA (R) - Oil-producing distributed... we determined it is saying the results would be precountries in South East Asia workable," he told reporters afhave renewed their pledge to ter a two-day meeting in Manila.

ASEAN has an emergency petroleum sharing arrangement grants and thought that if war broke out

Oil producers in the Association of South East Asian Nations Vice-President Orlando Galang and the Philippines.

and the formula for determining total supply cut-off from the the pool and how this will be volumes and specific allocations,

Pound Sterling Deutschemark

Swiss franc French franc

One Sterling

1.241.5.

One U.S. dollar

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, January 3, 1991

Central Bank official rates

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for

leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession

on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

1.9465/75

1.1510/20

1.4935/40

1.6850/60

1.2645/50

5.0750/0800

1123/1124

133.45/55

5.6010/60

5.7420/70

One ounce of gold 387.65/388.15

5.8450/8500

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

TOKYO - Stocks ended an abbreviated first trading day of

1991 higher. The Nikkei index rose 220.47 points, or 0.92 per coat, 20 24,069.18 on buying by big brokerages and arbit-

SYDNEY - Shares closed at a three-year low on mounting

concern over the Gulf crisis and the state of the world

economy. The All Ordinaries ended 31.5 points lower at

HONG KONG — Share prices closed sharply higher, bolstered

by a U.S. proposal on peace talks with Iraq and gains in Tokyo, but trading remained light. The Hang Seng index

SINGAPORE — The market closed with widespread gains on

renewed buying after U.S. President George Bush's offer to

hold a meeting with Iraq next week. The Straits Times

FRANKFURT — Renewed hopes of averting war in the Gulf boosted the dax index 2.2 per cent to 1,397.07.

ZURICH — The all-share SPI index slipped 1.1 point to 894.

A firmer trend in Frankfurt helped a recovery from morning

PARIS — The CAC-40 index gained 8.16 points to 1,547.66.

LONDON - The FTSE index gained 8.3 to 2,126.1 despite

NEW YORK - Economic worries and the Gulf crisis kept

many investors sidelined. At 1700 GMT the Dow Jones

worries about the Gulf crisis and the British economy.

industrials were down 9.4 points to 2,564.11.

gained 41.73 points to close at 3,046.61.

industrial index rose 15.63 points to 1,180.57.

ush session devoid of many in

30.76/81

662.0 666.0 1288.0 1295.7 444.7 447.4 524.6 527.7 130.6 131.4

Gulf, a Philippine oil official said under which a member state some countries, such as Iran, suffering a severe shortage can tap its partners for supplies.

Representatives from national (ASEAN) reaffirmed their com- oil companies in the six-member mitment to supply the oil needs ASEAN met to determine how of their partners which tradi-tionally depend on the Middle Indonesia, all oil producers, can pick it up," he said. East, Philippine National Oil to share with Singapore, Thailand

Galang said they assumed the "We reviewed the procedures worst-case scenario, that of a how much will be contributed to Gulf. He declined to disclose

 Japanese yen (for 100)
 496.3
 499.3

 Dutch guilder
 394.2
 396.6

 Swedish crown
 118.4
 119.1

 Italian lira (for 100)
 59.1
 59.5

 Belgian franc (for 10)
 214.8
 216.1

U.S. dollar

Canadian dollar

Deutschemarks

Dutch guilders

Swiss francs

Belgian francs

French francs

Japanese yen

Swedish crowns

Danish crowns

U.S. dollars

Norwegian crowns

Italian lire

thought that if war broke out might not be involved.

"But even if Iran continued to produce, insurance rates might be too high and tankers may be

"So the worst-case scenario is that nothing will be coming out of the Gulf," he noted.

ASEAN's non-oil producers import most of their requirements from the Middle East. Even Malaysia and Indonesia buy finished products from the Gulf, Galang said.

Cathay **Pacific** suspends **Bahrain** flights

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways said Friday it was suspending its daily flight to London via Bahrain form Jan. 11 until the Gulf crisis was re-

solved. Three direct Hong Kong-to-London flights would be added to the current schedule of five a week, a company statement said. Another service which goes to London by way of Bangkok, Bombay and Dubai four times a

week, would not be affected. "The Bahrain service will be reinstated as soon as the airline is satisfied that the situation in the Middle East justifies this," the statement said.

new currency in six years, lop-

ping six zeros off the inti to

A law, published Thursday in

the official newspaper, requires

that all prices and financial re-

cords be listed in terms of the

new currency. The law was pas-

sed in December by congress.

tion until after bills and coins

representing the nuevo sol are

released, the law said. Introduc-

tion of the new currency should

Central bank director Julio

Valarde said Thursday that new

bills and coins won't be available

The new law means that the

U.S. dollar is now worth 0.55

nuevo soles. Wednesday, the

The law was published only a

week after the government

announced that as of Jan. 1

prices should be listed in terms

dollar bought 550,000 intis.

until at least June.

of millions of intis.

occur "slowly," the law said.

The inti will remain in circula-

create the "nuevo sol."

Peru replaces inti

with nuevo sol

Aquino seeks emergency powers

MANILA (R) — President as its Corazon Aquino said Thursday crisis. she wanted emergency powers for six months to cope with the ledgeable about the oil industry, impact on the Philippines of a possible war in the Gulf.

She said she was asking congress to approve legislation billion profit from increased oil granting her emergency powers prices and production "are non-to take over public utilities and sense and don't reflect reality." businesses, suspend labour laws Last week, the Democratic and control supplies of oil, food leader of the House of Repreand other essential commodities. Aquino said the proposed powers would include penal sac-

tions against violators. "In short, these are powers to Iraqi invasion. respond to the crisis as the public welfare may require," she said in

press statement. The Philippines, which imports almost all its oil, is among this week, U.S. Vice President the Third World countries Dan Quayle asked King Fahd

affected by the Gulf crisis. Speaker of congress Ramon Mitra, said in a radio interview that it may not be necessary to pass special legislation, as the present constitution already kuwaitis emergency powers, such as the right to ration food supplies.

Aquino wanted the powers clearly spelled out.

Aquino's executive secretary, Oscar Orbos, said Wednesday emergency powers approved bedeadline for Iraqi troops to withdraw from Kuwait.

Defence secretary, Fidel Ramos, warned that should war break out the Philippines might have to contend with domestic to exploit an inevitable rise in prices and shortages of certain commodities.

Ramos said it could also trigin the Philippines.

as early as Tuesday. The mea-

sure led to long lines in many

stores, as both customers and

Thursday stores began listing

The cost of printing new bills

prices in terms of the nuevo sol.

and minting new coins may top

\$100 million, analysts said. In

the past, coins were minted in

Peru but bills were printed in

Britain, France, Germany, Italy

Congressional sources have

said the central bank may try to

print the nuevo sol bills in Peru.

who took office July 28, prom-

ised during the presidential cam-

paign that he would launch a

harsh austerity measures to eli-

minate hyperinflation, then run-

ning at more than 60 per cent per

Tel: 625155

In August, Fujimori imposed

President Alberto Fujimori,

mathematics

and Mexico.

new currency.

But government officials said lost \$6b oil cash that Aquino wanted the NICOSIA (R) — Kuwait has emergency powers approved belost nearly \$6 billion in oil re-

U.S. claims that the kingdom is

The official, who is know-

sentatives, said Saudi Arabia

woud pick up 43 billion in extra

revenue over 12 months because

of the surge in oil prices after the

"They literally could pay for

Desert Shield themselves," he

and the toppled emir of Kuwait

for more money to help support

the extended stay of U.S. forces

in the Gulf. Senior U.S. admi-

fore the Jan. 15 United Nations | venue since Iraqi troops swept into the emirate in August and oil production halted, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Rashid Salem al Ameeri was quoted as saying. The Kuwait News Agency

(KUNA) quoted him as saying unrest as extremist groups tried strategic and commerical oil reserves in Western countries would prevent a sharp rise in oil prices in the event of a Gulf war. Beside the loss of nearly \$6 ger a foreign exchange shortage billion, Ameeri said Kuwait's oil installations were extensively

damaged by the Iraqis. It was difficult at present to evaluate the damage, he added.
He said Kuwait had recently bought crude oil and oil products from Saudi Arabia in particular and also on the spot market and

LIMA (AP) — Peru Thursday Banks and businesses began enable it to supply its network of officially introduced its second listing prices in millions of intis filling stations and refineries in Europe. He gave no details of quantities. He said he was signing a \$6.5 cashiers adjusted to the new million contract with a Hungarian company he did not name

involving investments in 17 filling stations, Kuwait's first investment in eastern Europe. He did not say when or where the contract would be signed. Ameeri said the investment in Hungary was partly in support to

East European country's condemnation of Iraq over its invasion of Kuwait He said Hungary was badly hit by the rise in oil prices caused by

the Gulf crisis and a halt in Soviet oil supplies. The minister said Kuwait Pet-

roleum Corporation (KPC), whose foreign subsidiaries are still operating, was considering oil investments in Thailand and East Asian countries.

He believed Iraq was producing enough oil to cover military and domestic consumption, but said he could not rule out Iraqi oil exports to Jordan.

as much as windfall from oil (AP) - A Saudi official denied reacted positively.

said it is spending twice as much as its oil windfall on the Gulf said claims by some members of

the U.S. Congress that Saudi the new forces. Information Minister Ali Al lion to gear up the Saudi milit-Shaer said Monday that Saudi ary, \$2 billion for civil defence, Arabia has pocketed over \$10 expenditures due to the Gulf \$2.2 billion for an arms package crisis were "much more than the in September and \$7.8 billion for increase in petroleum revenues" an additional arms package in but gave no details.

The Saudi official speaking on condition he was not identified billion to gear up oil production day and prices below \$18 a barrel and projected for 12 months. \$14 billion in oil revenues.

twice that amount as a result of said. the current crisis," the official said, and costs are expected to Saudi expenditures until Jan. 1,

Knowledgeable sources said sources said.
Saudi Arabia has spent \$6 billion "The Gulf crisis has been \$1.2 billion a month, a figure official said. which is expected to rise as the "Any charges that Saudi Ara- duction after the crisis ends to

billion to nations hurt by the he said. The 1991 cost of the U.S. U.N. embargo against Iraq who During the past five months,

Gulf crisis costs Saudis twice

transportation and lodging for sources said.

Domestically, it spent \$1.5 bil-October, the sources said.

said that since Aug. 2 the king- from 5.4 million barrels a day, dom has earned an additional when the crisis began, to eight million barrels a day reached "But we've spent more than only in December, the sources

That adds up to \$27 billion in rise as the troop build-up con- plus the cancellation of \$4 billion in debts owed by Egypt, the

to support the 28-nation multi- tremendously costly for Saudi national force including 325,000 Arabia and we will continue to U.S. troops. That works out to pay for it long after," the Saudi

U.S. deployment moves to bia is making a windfall are allow Kuwait and Iraq to start 420,000 troops in the next few totally unfounded. Any charges exporting again. This will mean that Saudi Arabia has not a drop in income.

reaping massive oil profits and military operation in the Gulf have sent troops to help defend Saudi Arabia produced an said it is spending twice as much been estimated at \$30 bil- the kingdom, the source said. averge of between 7-7.2 million lion. But it appears unlikely the Saudis will significantly expand their contribution beyond pick-ing up the costs for food, fuel, fugees for six months, the the price quoted on the New York Exchange.

> The U.S. congressman appeared to base his \$13 billion figure on Saudi oil production of eight million barrels daily and oil prices at around \$28 a barrels. These were compared with the pre-crisis 5.4 million barrels a

> But the Saudi government announced Monday it was delaying putting into effect its 1991 budget because the uncertainty created by the crisis has made it difficult to project how much revenue it will get from oil.

Oil prices are likely to surge, at least temporarily, if there is a war and to fall dramatically if the crisis is resolved peacefully.

Saudis will have to cut oil pro-

Indonesia budget targets growth-inflation balance

policy makers are walking an current 1990/91 budget. economic tightrope, pulled by "A high oil price brings two debt," a foreign economist said.

pre-election populism on one side problems for Indonesia," one The 1990/91 budget was and hard-headed pragmatism on economist said. "One, it contri- 42,873 billion rupiah (\$24 bilthe other.

snapping its jaws.

begins April 1 will look to spend rocketing, economists say.

make people happy before elections due in early 1992 by raising proving infrastructure.

"Expanding the rural economy is okay if you also improve inflation is not so bad," one jumped by 45 per cent. economist said.

Indonesian inflation was offiagainst 5.97 per cent in 1989, and the highest rate since 11.46 per cent in 1983. "The government will con-

rate of inflation at not more than one digit," Finance Minister Johannes Sumarlin said Thurs-

Fuelling inflation has been a booming economy, imports and soaring investment. The economy grew 7.3 per cent in 1989/ 90 and a 7.0 per cent expansion

is estimated for the current 1990/

Added to this were windfall gains from oil exports after prices recovered at mid-year and then soared above \$30 a barrel following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Jakarta has used an

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's average price of \$16.50 in the windfall, so you're still short of

the country's surging oil re-banks bursting with funds lent 91 with \$2.31 billion. venues without sending prices money furiously. Demand for "Corporate and especially banks bursting with funds lent 91 with \$2.31 billion. But they believe the governavailability, "which equals high tively as they might be," he said. ment will yield to temptation to inflation and lots of imports," a banker said.

In August 1990, the most respending in the villages and im- cent figures available. Indonesia's trade surplus had fallen to \$86.3 million from \$491.6 million a year earlier. While non-oil rural infrastructure. With a better exports rose just 5.8 per cent flow of goods the danger of over the period, total imports

"Import growth is inevitable to help with inflationary supply cially 9.53 per cent in 1990 bottlenecks, and because we need capital goods," a private economist said.

With the windfall from oil revenues, Indonesian politicians tinue efforts to curb the growth have talked of paying off part of Jakarta's foreign debt, which at over \$50 billion is the Third World's fifth largest.

"They've certainly been playing up the issue that a large part of the budget is eaten up debt payments. But if imports are high you eat up your dollar

foreign exchange to pay off

butes to economic growth and lion), up 17 per cent on the Beneath them inflation is fuels inflation. Two, it contri- previous year. Of that, foreign butes to income the government aid was budgeted at contributing A draft budget due Monday faces political pressure to spend, 11,289 billion rupiah (\$6.3 bilfor the 1991/92 fiscal year which and fuels inflation."

As the economy boomed, Japan led the lenders in 1990/

goods and services outpaced land tax are not used as effec-

MAID MISSING



The Filipina maid Narcisa A Vagas left the house of her employer on Dec. 17, 1990 and has not come back since

formation about her or

CONCORD

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NUOUM

The Savages

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 Friday & Senday critiz show at 11:00 a.m.

RAINBOW

Ahmad Zaki ... Raghda ... Sahar Rami

CAPORIA

(Arabic) Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Tel: 634144 PHILADELPHIA

HER ALIBI



Tel: 699238

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30,

PLAZA

SPRING BREAK

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Have moved to their new offices in Jawharat Amman Building, Khalil Mardam Street, near Grindlays Bank — head office, Shmeisani, telephone No.: 686311/312/313, Fax No. 686313, P.O. Box 432 - Amman.

More refugees flee Communist Albania; Greece calls for help

- Scores more Albanian refugees fled to Greece from Europe's last Communist state Friday, braving the dangers of the heavily-patrolled border and defying pleas from Greece to

Greek officials said almost 200 refugees dodged Albanian border guards and sneaked across the frontier in overnight escapes. To flee from Albania, they must tunnel under a four-metre (13foot) security fence and cross an icy river.

Nearly 6,000 refugees, most with nothing warmer to wear than threadbare jackets or sweaters, have crossed the border on foot since Albanian Communist leader Ramiz Alia loosened his political reforms, including free grip on power and promised reforms in early December.

partners in Luxembourg Friday. cies. Most scoff at the Greek call apart," he said. "There is no Samaras is calling on the United Nations High Commissioner many others will come across. for REfugees in Geneva to send "I miss my mother and

nelp deal with the influx of thousnads of destitute people. overnight tent city in the village school here in Greece. of Kalpaki to handle some re-fugees. Others are spread out in fugees speak Greek and only a

The government has repeatedly skills. called on them to go home.

Most of the refugees come from Albania's large ethnic children, said: "I am one of the Greek minority. Athens has lucky ones. I worked as a foreappealed to them to stay at home and await the pledged

elections in February. But few of the refugees be-Greek Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras said he would raise problems caused y the large num-

ber of refugees with Greece's began to shed 45 years of Stalinnew. Everything else, all the European Community (EC) ism and strict isolationist polimachinery for business, is falling

a team to assess the problem and father," said Orestes Filis, 16, who crossed the border with his sister, Marietta, 21. "But I will The Greek army erected an never go back. I want to go to

centres around the north-west. few have any training or job

Odysseus Iotis, 32, who crossed with his wife and two young man in a state building cooperative. I made about 6,400 drachmas (\$42) a month.

Why had he come? "You can't understand it. The

future for that country whatever they reform.

Most of the refugees had heard on the radio of the goods available outside their country but many were still stunned by what they saw in northern

This is my first car ride " said George Vasiliskoches, 22, who crossed the border two days ago, and was given a ride.

Vasiliskoches is typical of many refugees. He learned Greek from his parents. But he can barely read or

write, has no skill or craft, and his only job experience was two years in the Albanian army. "I worked on a farm," he said. "But with shovels and hoes, you know, there were no machines

of any kind. We did everything

zabeth on the south coast, police The police report gave few

factional fighting as rival groups battled with guns after several

days of relative peace during the

Christmas and New Year holi-

been killed in fighting in Natal

province over the past 24 hours in one of the worst surges of

violence in recent weks. South

The new violence came as

Africa had been fairly quiet dur-

police outlined plans to halt growing crime and violence, in-

cluding substantial payments for

people who hand in guns and

A police report on the Natal

violence said eight men were

killed in an attack on a village at

Mabaleni -- four men were kil-

led when a band with AK-47

assault rifles attacked two vil-

lages at Hlati - and two men

were killed in fighting with

assault rifles at Table mountain.

A man and a seven-year-old

girl were shot and killed at

Tokoza, a black township out-

(Agencies) - A peasant said he

helped two victims limp away

from the wreckage of a U.S.

military helicopter downed by

rebels, but that they received no

was dead and two were badly

wounded. Debris at the scene

Both of the crewmen were

bleeding from the neck, one

more than the other, Mendez

The UH-1H Huey transport

in eastern El Salvador, snapping

off a treetop before apparently

bouncing onto the scrubland 30

Chief Defence Department

pokesman Pete Williams said in

Washington that all three victims

had a gunshot wound in the head

and two had no other apparent

mayor of the U.S. capital, be-

coming the first black woman to

Her inauguration formally en-

The 46-year-old divorcee was

sworn into the \$90.705-a-year.

four-year job before several,

thousands people in front of City

Hall and within sight of the

White House.
"What the people of Washing-

ton wasnt most is an honest

ded the long Washington rule of

lead a large U.S. city.

for cocaine possession.

metres away.

numerous bullet holes.

the Spanish word

indicated the copter crashed.

The peasant, Silvio Mendez,

medical attention and died.

Police said 14 black men had

days, police said Friday.

ing the holiday period.

explosives.

in fighting.

New fighting shatters holiday

JOHANNESBURG (R) — At least 17 people died in black More than 1,000 people have died in factional fighting in black townships around Johannesburg since August. More than 5,000 people have died in factional fighting in recent years in Natal.

The fighting mostly pits Xhosas and other blacks loyal to the African National Congress (ANC) against Zulus of the con-servative Inkatha Movement. The two groups oppose apartheid, but differ over leadership claims and plans for the future of South Africa.

Johannesburg's black townships were fairly quiet dur-ing the holidays because many Zulu migrant workers returned to homes in Natal for the holi-

Police spokesman Capt. Craig Kotze said police had launched operation sentry" to seize guns and other weapons in black townships. He said special police teams would track down weapons hidden in illegal caches.

side Johannesburg, and a man major crackdown on crime. hacked to death near Port Elidetails and did not comment on

Salvador rebels shoot down

Iull in S. Africa; 17 killed

Police also said rewards would be paid to people who turn in illegal guns and other weapons. Rewards range from the equiva-lent of \$2,400 for an AK-47 rifle. \$2,000 for radio-controlled explosives and \$300 for a hand

The ANC, the country's main black opposition group, criticised the police plans, warning they aimed at suppressing the ANC's military wing. It said ANC military personnel would defend themselves.

"We recognise crime is a ma-jor problem facing our country, but to equate action to combat crime with an attack on the ANC is irresponsible," the ANC said in a statement.

President F.W. De Klerk legalised the ANC and other pposition groups last February to clear the way for talks on sharing power with the black majority. Negotiations on a new constitution are expected to begin later this year.

Meanwhile U.S. President The government has ordered a George Bush is likely to ask the United States congress this year Police say weapons brought into to modify sanctions imposed on South Africa by opposition South Africa for its apartheid groups increasingly are being policies, a U.S. government official for bank robberies and cial said Thursday.

Colombia announces 1st major drug bust

BOGOTA (AP) — The government has announced its first big cocaine seizure of 1991, and a national police chief blamed drug traffickers and leftist guerrillas for a new wave of violence

sweeping Colombia. At least 32 policemen and soldiers have been killed since

'We are simultaneously suffering a terrorist wave from subversive groups and actions from drug traffickers who are seizing the moment to reap vengeance, Gen. Octavio Vargas, a national police director, said Thursday in an interview with the RCN Radio network.

In the past two days, police say, rebels have carried out at least 10 different attacks, killing around 27 policemen and soldiers, blowing up oil pipelines and destroying electrical power

retaliating for the army's capture in early December of a guerrilla command post in the southern Colombian jungle.

Anti-narcotics police Wednesday seized about 2,500 pounds (1.130 kilometres) of pure cocaine on a ranch in an eastern Colombian jungle, national police spokesman Maj. Jorge Martin

The police Jestroved a clandestine laboratory and seized cocaine-processing chemicals and weapons. Martin said. All the drug suspects escaped and there were no arrests, Martin

Also Wednesday, police in a northern rural zone destroyed a laboratory used to process heroine, Martin said.

Earlier, authorities blamed gunmen hired by Medellin drug traffickers for murdering five security officers Wednesday. The authorities said the murders may signal the return of the drug bosses' war against the government following a tenuous fivemonth truce.

Gunmen travelling in a moving car Wednesday shot dead four secret police agents in Medellin, police said. In a second attack, an antikidnapping army chief and his bodyguard were shot and wounded in the same city, home base to the world's most violent cocaine cartel.

The bodyguard, Henry Mar-tinez, died later at a local hospital, an army report said.

Vargas said "Los Priscos." Medellin gang hired by the city's cocaine cartel, was responsible for Wednesday's murders. He said it was not immediately clear if the killings were ordered by the cartel's leaders or by lower level traffickers avenging an anti-drug crackdown by police. In July, the cartel stopped most of its bombings and assassinations. Before that, the traffickers admitted to having killed 250 Medellin policemen, or 10

per cent of the city's police force. New terrorism by the cartel could be a major blow to President Cesar Gaviria's new antidrug strategy, which critics have compared to the pre-World War II policy of appeasing Adolf

Hitler. Gaviria has offered to prohibit extraditions to the United States and reduce jail sentences of drug

smugglers who surrender. Five traffickers, including cartel leader Fabio Ochoa, have accepted the offer and turned themselves in.

Major vows to build on Thatcher era

LONDON (R) — Britian's new these past 10 years." it is destruct prime minister, John Major, Major, who became prime Major said, vowed in an interview published minister in November after Thatcher "There wi

garet Thatcher. "I think what Mrs Thatcher started to come right. achieved in the last 10 years was very remarkable and we are going to preserve it," Major

He told the Daily Mail newspaper: "I'll be doing things in my per cent by the end of year. own way, in a different style,

ordered security forces Friday to

suspend offensive operations

days, raising hopes for a resump-

Deputy Defence Minister

Ranjan Wijeratne said the gov-

ernment gave the order despite

several violations of a ceasefire

Asked by reporters if there

was hope for resuming peace talks with the rebels, Wijeratne

The Liberation Tigers of

Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who have

fought for a separate homeland

in the north and east of the

Indian Ocean island for seven

years, declared a unilateral cease-

fire which came into effect-

violations of the ceasefire in

which two soldiers were injured.

Tuesday.

said: "Yes, we live in hope."

tion of peace talks.

declared by the rebels.

Hopes rise for resuming

three days.

Sri Lankan peace talks

Friday to press ahead with poli-. lost a struggle for the leadership cies that marked the decade in of the ruling Conservative Party, power of his predecessor, Mar- gave warning of tough times ahead before the economy

> The main battle would be against inflation, now an annual 9.7 per cent but forecast by the government to fall to around five

"I hate it because it destroys ves. but the objectives will be 'peoples' lives. It makes a great to expanding the private sector,' the same as we have had for country weak and inefficient and he said.

of the rebels on a day-to-day

basis over the next seven days.

The government would con-sider extending the period of

suspension if the rebels too

observed the ceasefire, an offi-

"This could then lead to dis-

cussions for a political solution

of the north-east question at

which all political parties would be represented," it said.

The Tigers want to set up an

independent homeland for the

minority Tamils. They say the

Sinhalese-dominated govern-

Wijeratne said opposition par-

and employment.

with the rebels.

cial statement said Thursday.

it is destructive to everybody,

There will be more pain before we beat it, I know that. But if people think that pain can be put off then they are wrong," he said. "Unemployment is going to rise and I do not know when precisely it will go down."

Major made it clear he planned to continue the government's policy of selling stateowned enterprises to the private

"I have no fixed ending point

Bielecki approved He said the situation over the as new past three days since the ceasefire had come into effect was against Tamil rebels for seven much better than in the previous Polish Wijeratne said the government would assess the activities

WARSAW (AP) -- Parliament overwhelmingly approved Jan Krzysztof Bielecki as prime minister Friday after he pledged to make the unpopular decisions necessary to recreate Poland as

"a normal country."

The vote was 276 in favour with 58 opposed and 52 abstain-

President Lech Walesa, who proposed Bielecki a week ago, sat in the president's chair overlooking the parliament floor for the first time since being sworn in as Poland's only popularly elected head of state on Dec. 22.

After his confirmation, Bielecki, a deputy in the lower house of parliament, moved from his seat on the chamber floor to the bench reserved for the prime minister and his cabinet.

mind the balance sheet of successes and failures of our predecessors," Bielecki told parlia-ment before the vote." "That is why we want to be a government of continuation as well as breakthrough."

Bielecki, 39, was to present his programme to parliament Saturday and then nominate his cabinet.

started a business consulting firm employing Solidarity activ-ists thrown out of work by the Communist regime, is head of the Liberal-Democratic Congress, a small political party devoted to developing private en-

Bloc's first non-Communist government leader in August 1989 after Solidarity was relegalised and partially free elections were

premier

reported. One pleaded for 'Agua." from the scene a short while did not see the crewmen die.

"My government will keep in

Bielecki, an entrepreneur who

He replaces Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who became the East

U.S. helicopter; 3 killed SAN FRANCISCO, El Salvador wounds.

State Department Deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said circumstantial evidence indicated the three were shot to death by rebels after the aircraft, hit by gunfire, landed safely. He stopped short of saying rebels said that when he first arrived at executed the three. He said a the site, a half-hour after it was final determination will be made struck by rebel gunfire and came after investigation by a U.S. down Wednesday, one crewman forensic team-

> The team arrived in El Salvador Thursday and autopsies were scheduled for Firday, embassy spokeswoman Pamela Cory-Archer said.

Mendez, who lives about 200 yards from the crash site, said guerrillas came to get him to help them move the victims ab-Mendez said he went away out 30 minutes after the chopper was shot down. The rebels then later on the orders of rebels and set fire to the aircraft.

One man was dead when he reached the site, Mendez told helicopter crashed onto a hillside the Associated Press. One of the two still alive indicated he did not want to be moved, but Mendez moved him anyway on rebel metres away and again 5 to 10 orders, he said.

He said the two died about an conflicts with official U.S. not provide medical attention" accounts that the three crew or first aid of any kind. They landed the chopper safely after died while he was away, going rebels hit it with small arms fire. on rebel orders for water and a The chopper blades bore truck.

> Mendez repeated essentially the same story later in radio interviews broadcast in the capital, San Salvador.

New Washington mayor inaugurated

"Dixon said.

WASHINGTON (R) - Politic- She had promised to take a

al newcomer Sharon Pratt Dixon shovel to clean up a perceived

was inaugurated Wednesday as mess of the Barry administra-

Marion Barry, now facing prison landslide over former police

"We have lived through a

decade of national excess...

Elected in November by a

chief Maurice Turner, a Repub-

lican, in her first try for public

office, Democrat Dixon faces

formidable problems similar to

those of other states and cities

- a record murder rate, a re-

cord budget deficit of up to \$300

shelter for dogs," shouted two bedraggled men with mongrei

"Help the homeless, build a

dogs on leashes on the fringe of ton, D.C.

million and the homeless.

taken or where they died. Peasants in the area told re porters they heard gunfire, but some indicated it could have been ammunition exploding in

The leftist rebels' Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front said guerrillas did not know they were shooting down a U.S. helicopter. The rebels are fighting a U.S.-supported right-wing government.

"At the time it was a war craft that was overflying a war zone... and within this context it was shot down," a rebel statement

'One of the pilots was dead with a perforated skull and the other two were seriously wounded. They were given basic first aid and handed over to civilians to take them to hospital... but they did not survive their serious wounds." the statement said.

There are dozens of civilian witnesses to this." The statement contradicted a previous rebel version of the deaths, which said the three

were found dead in the UH-1H helicopter after guerrilla forces downed it with rifle fire Wednes-The rebels repeated that their

forces had downed what they took for a hostile aircraft, calling the area around Lolotique a war

"This incident in no way connters our wish not to attack North American personnel, a decision It was not clear how far from we maintain as valid," the statethe site the injured men were ment said.

the well-dressed inaugural

crowd. One said they spent

Christmas night on the streets

because shelters refuse to admit

Neither of the two top elected

residents of the U.S. capital, President George Bush and

Vice-President Dan Quayle

were at the ceremony, attended

mainly by regional and congres-

enclave.

sional dignitaries in this federal

Dixon, a former utility com-

pany executive and national

Democratic Party official, is only

the third elected mayor since

1974, when Congress granted limited home rule to Washing-

WELLINGTON (R) - A gui man's rampage through a ting

traps and rat poison peliets to stop a growing rodent menace in the bamboo jungles of northeastern India, a news agency has reported. The rapidly multiplying rats are eating flowering bamboo, threatening the liveli-hood of 2,700 tribal families in-81 villages of Arunachal Pradesh state, Press Trust of India said. Bamboo worth \$150,000 was damaged last year in the hills of east Kameng district, 1,490 kilometres east of New Delhi, the news agency said. The "rats" have put humans on the defensive," Press Trust said. It quoted the state's information minister, Ddera Natung, as saying the government has bought more than \$7,000 worth of rat traps and poison for the farmers. The news agency said the rat population increases as the bamboo' plants flower. Press Trust said the tribespeople consider the blossoming of bamboo an "omi-nous" sign portending the out-break of epidemics. Bamboo is a critical raw material in the paper industry and is used in construc tion and making Indian flutes. Its shoots are a popular vegetable for the tribespeople, and its leaves and branches are used as

American Jews protest against Madonna record

Wijeratne Friday listed seven Tamils in language, education

"These may be minor inci- ties, which President Ranasing-

dents. We are giving the benefit he Premadasa consulted before

of the doubt about their inten- ordering the suspension, tions to the LTTE," Wijeratne favoured resuming peace talks

LOS ANGELES (R) - An American Jewish group has demanded a compact disc by pop star Madonna be taken off record store shelves, saying some of the words were dangerous. anti-semitic and could incite hatred against Jews.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper. associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles, described one track on Madonna's Justify My Love CD record as "dangerous and an insult to every Jew." The notion that an icon of

American pop culture should.

for whatever reason, zero in on the most notorious anti-semitic quote in the Bible, is totally unacceptable." The passage in question was taken from the New Testament

and reads, "and the slander of those who say they are Jews, but added. they are not, they are a synago. It asked Demann to have the gue of Satan." Madonna's performance of

the line appears in The Beast Within mix on the CD, which contains five different mixes, or versions, of Justify My Love. In a statement issued by Warner Bros, her record company, the 32-year-old singer said, "I certainly didn't have any anti-

"My message, if any, is pro-tolerance and anti-hate. The song is, after all, about love." Madonna has been in trouble over religious imagery. Her 1989 video, Like A Freddie Demann, Cooper several church groups. It de-wrote: "There is a paragraph (on the CD) which insults the Jewish showed the scantily clad singer people and can contribute to kissing the feet of a statue of a



Madonna

The imagery of Jews as devils had led to attacks on the Jewish Book of Revelations of St. John people and slander against Judaism for 2,000 years, the letter

> record recalled and also demanded a public explanation as to why the ohrase was used. Although Madonna provided

> a public explanation, there was no immediate indication the record would be recalled. Cooper said he was informed of the use of the Biblical phrase

by a sound technician involved Semitic intent when I included a in the mixing of the CD, who passage from the Bible on my objected to it. This is not the first time

ong is, after all, about love." Her 1989 video, Like A In a letter to Madonna's agent Prayer, invoked the wrath of showed the scantily clad singer those who seek to promote anti- black saint and bringing him to life to be her lover.

deal," she proclaimed in an inaugural speech harking back to her election campaign pledge. OA employees accuse USIA of interference

The employees are circulating

pass a law muzzling their parent organisation, the U.S. Information Agency (USIA). USIA officials "continue to view VOA as nothing more than Dymally, chairman of the House

a petition asking Congress to

tee that oversees USIA opera-

of Representatives Subcommit-

WASHINGTON (AP) — Voice age itself as a news organisation of America employees are accus- run by journalists, not a motley ing "a motley assortment of assortment of would-be propagandists" of interfering with the operations of VOA for decades has battled

VOA for decades has battled the U.S. government's interna-tional radio service. maintain its worldwide reputation as a reliable and credible news service. In the 1980s, it gained some independence and control over its personnel and budget functions.

But two weeks ago, USIA Director Bruce Gelb announced a periodically annoying louds-peaker for politically convenient budget authority and its personmessages," said the petition nel and public affairs operations addressed to Rep. Mervyn in order to save money and in order to save money and eliminate duplications.

Gelb, a presidential appointee, has angered VOA employees with several unpopular VOA "must be given the decisions, including one to eli-autonomy and authority to man-

language broadcasts. Gelb backed off that decision under strong public pressure. "In recent months we have

noted with alarm the degree to which USIA and its director, Bruce Gelb, have sought to control the Voice Of America, tees that oversee his agency on down to the content and tone of what goes on the air," the petitioners said.

signed the petition, but all of erations to fit the changing needs those interviewed said they sup- of the post-cold war era. ported its message.

Allan Baker, who heads Friends Liberty, which broadcast to of the Voice of America, a group
of former VOA officials formed
Union — and with Radio and last year to help fend off budget TV Marti, which beam program-

Gelb also has been embroiled in a feud with VOA Director Richard Carlson, another pres-

idential appointee. Gelb's critics claim he failed to consult with the White House and the congressional committhe restructuring,
Gelb's move comes as Presi-

dent George Bush prepares to Its was not immediately appoint a panel to make recommendations on streamlining the estimated 2,500 employees administration's broadcast op-

ported its message.

"You can rest assured this reflects popular sentiment," said Allan Baker, who heads Friends

The panel will study whether VOA can be consolidated with Radio Free Europe and Radio mes to Cuba.

U.S. to lift ban of immigrants with AIDS

NEW YORK (R) — B.S. Secretary of Health and Haman Services Louis Sullivan has take the deadly virus AIDS off a of sicknesses which can bar in migrants from the United Stat the New York Times said Pr day. Other diseases which a not passed casually, such syphilis, gonorrhoea and leprose have also been taken off the on the grounds they do no represent a threat to travelle the newspaper said. The New York Times quoted U.S. off cials as saying the new list, which will include only infections tuberculosis, would soon be approved by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service and the U.S. State Department. The paper said the new policy would take effect from June 1, until then those carrying the AIDS. (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) virus will be barred from entering the country unless they declare they are infected and receive an official waiver The ban had become a point of: controversy and was denounced last June at the sixth internation al conference on AIDS in Sant Francisco as ineffective and an intrusion into the lives of those. carrying the virus.

Thief in Gorbachev mask loots bank

STOCKHOLM (R) — A thief wearing a mask of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev played out his own form of economic. restructuring Thursday, raiding Stockholm bank. A 'polici spokesman said the thief, helpe by an accomplice masked as old man, looted more than # safe-deposit boxes from bank's vault. More than million Swedish cro (\$178,500) in cash may been stolen, news reports A security camera photograph the two masked men at we The police said they fired shots at a car trying to close their escape in a vehicle driven by a

Murder rate remains low in New Zealand

South Island township pushed in 1990, police said, but the country was peaceful by world standards. According to provisional statistics, 67 people were murdered last year, increase from 62 in 1990, 78. spokeswoman said. The total stood at 41 at the end of September and police were hoping foran even quieter year than usual. But David Gray put paid to that-when he shot dead 13 neighbours in Aramoana on Nov. 13.2 Gray himself was shot dead by: an anti-terrorist squad after 24 hours on the run. According to Justice Department figures, the rate of murder or attempted murder in New Zealand is about 2.7 per 100,000 people per year. compared with 4.5 in Australia and 8.4 in the United States.

Rat menace frightens bamboo growers

NEW DELHI (AP) - Author-

ities have bought thousands of

a nutritious feed for livestock.

of 1991